

the chronicle

Drawing up

Life can be a really puzzle for local cartoonist Geoff

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Ton of music

Organist Paul heading for his milestone concert

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Driven player

Henry welcomes the competition for places

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Market changes talks to be held

STALLHOLDERS will hold showdown talks with Dudley Council bosses to persuade them to rethink plans for a £6 million masterplan for the town's market.

Around 3,000 market traders and residents have signed a petition opposing the planned revamp being considered.

The second round of a consultation ended at the start of December with about 300 people taking part. Ward Councillor Malcolm Davis, the head of the petition, has welcomed the news of a meeting between council officers and traders.

"It seems the council is listening and we hope they will agree to look at the whole scheme again," he said. "We have one of the best markets here in Dudley - better than most in the country."

Councillor Davis said the talks had been arranged ahead of the central Dudley area committee meeting on January 31.

He added the 3,000-strong petition would still be presented to the committee whatever comes out of the earlier meeting.

Under the proposals the market place would be revamped and new stalls with canopies installed.

The number of stalls would be reduced from the current 74 pitches.

Message of the bishop

THE BISHOP of Dudley David Walker has called on people to learn from the past 12 months and take strength for the coming year.

He said: "My New Year's wish and prayer for each of you is that in 2012 your faith will be strong enough to carry you through the unanticipated challenges and maybe tragedies that the year will bring."

"And that even in adversity nothing will extinguish the spark of joy from your life."

COUPLE TRAPPED AS SEWER FLOODS

by Adam Burling

WATER company Severn Trent has apologised to an elderly couple after they were stranded in their home for 10 days when sewage flooded their garden. More than six inches of water trapped Ron and Iris Hyde in their house.

Hundreds are backing bid on city status

HUNDREDS of signatures have been gathered in just a week on a petition supporting Dudley's bid for city status. The town is one of 26 in the running for a change of status in 2012 to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee.

The town's chamber of commerce has launched an online petition to give people a chance to get behind the project. So far 504 people have signed. Paul Bennett, president of the organisation, said: "It is important that people from all communities get behind this bid for city status."

"A successful bid can only be a good thing for the economic growth of the borough."

The petition calls on people to show their commitment to "a vibrant and prosperous city where people are proud to live, learn and work and where businesses are keen to invest."

The bid was submitted in May 2011 and highlighted Dudley's history and heritage as the "jewel in the crown" of the application. Council bosses say the bid is for the entire borough and areas including Stourbridge and Brierley Hill are key to the success of the project.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Les Jones, said: "The nature of our bid was carefully considered as our borough is made up of four main township areas, all of which must maintain their own unique, individual identity. With a population of more than 300,000 we are bigger than the majority of our competitors."

Mrs Hyde, aged 85, uses a walking frame and only the back door is convenient for her to use.

She relies on their car to get around, but it was out of bounds as neither of them could wade through the ankle-deep sewage. Staff at the Ockerhill convenience store next door took them food as they could not go shopping.

Water firm Severn Trent was repeatedly contacted by the couple and their neighbours, and finally drained the area on New Year's Eve - 10 days after the flood first started on December 21.

Engineers had visited three times during that period but Mr and Mrs Hyde said they failed to tackle the problem.

The water appeared to have risen through a drain and manhole cover near the back door of the house in Toll End Road, but workers have struggled to find the root cause.

Smell

Mrs Hyde said: "I think it really has been unacceptable."

"The smell has been terrible from the sewage and we shouldn't have had to put up with this for so long."

She said a similar problem occurred 11 years ago and engineers then believed it was down to a problem in the pipes network under the road.

Severn Trent issued an apology to Mr and Mrs Hyde but was unable to say why the situation had taken so long to deal with and put right.

Spokesman Sara-Jane O'Kane said: "Severn Trent would like to apologise to all those affected by the sewer flooding in Toll End Road."

"We understand this must have been a terrible situation, especially at this time of year."

She said there were many blockages over the festive season which were caused by extra fat, oil and grease being deposited in the sewers from households.



Roy and Iris Hyde, from Toll End Road, Tipton, who were trapped due to flooding

Morrisons bid aims to bring in 70 jobs

A LEADING supermarket has unveiled plans for a major new store in the Black Country which will create 70 new jobs.

Morrisons wants to demolish its existing store in Kingswinford, and replace it with a new 40,000sq ft development.

Under the plans, the replacement supermarket would be built on disused industrial land next to the present store in Stallings Lane.

The old store would continue trading until construction of the new building had been completed. It would then be demolished and the land used to expand the car park.

A petrol station would also be built at the site as part of the proposals.

Nearly 300 part and full-time staff presently employed at the supermarket would be transferred to the new building.

The 70 jobs created would be entirely new and add to the existing workforce.

Officials say plans had yet to be submitted to Dudley Council for consideration as they first wanted to get the opinions of neighbours.

An exhibition will be held in a marquee at the existing store's car park on January 10 between 9.30am and 7.30pm for people to see the plans.

Canoeists die in accidents

Two members of Wyre Forest Canoe Club, including one from Stourbridge, have died less than 24 hours apart in separate accidents.

Dave Smith, aged 49, from Stourbridge, died when he fell out of his canoe in Cornwall on New Year's Day. The father of three was on holiday with his family at the time.

Steve Wall, 48, from Ludlow, died in a canoeing accident on the River Teme in Shropshire on Monday.

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New centres for pregnant women

HEALTH chiefs are to ease pressure on over-stretched hospitals by sending more mothers-to-be to specialist centres to give birth.

More women will also be able to choose to have their babies at home.

A review has found that labour wards in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton hospitals have all seen significant increases in births.

Russells Hall Hospital is expected to deliver 333 more babies this year

than expected, Walsall will see 277 extra births and New Cross will have 110 extra babies born.

A £1 million specialist midwife-led centre for low-risk pregnancies opened in Smethwick in October. Others are in the pipeline for Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The new Walsall unit delivering 800 babies a year will open in the spring earmarked for the Homer Building in Charles Street. A similar

unit will open in Wolverhampton for as many as 1,000 births in 2012.

Midwives will also be available to support more home births if mothers choose that option. Across the Black Country there were 164 home births from 2010 to 2011.

Andy Williams, director of commissioning at the Black Country Cluster of PCTs, said: "It is our priority to ensure women are offered a choice of options that range from

home birth, to midwife or consultant-led care. We will not compromise on quality and will ensure that all the options available provide women with a safe environment in which to give birth."

Meanwhile the number of births at Stafford Hospital has dropped by more than 450 with many now travelling into the Black Country.

The hospital had handled 2,400 births in 2008 to 2009.

Woman's lucky escape as car wrecks her home

A WOMAN had a lucky escape when a car ploughed through the front of her house and demolished part of a wall, just feet away from where she was standing making a drink.

by Adam Burling

Sonia Mander said that she felt lucky to be alive after the car hit her semi-detached home in the Black Country.

Part of the front wall of the house, in Grange Lane, Stourbridge, was destroyed by the smash and debris was sent flying.

The back of the Volkswagen Golf crashed into the house as Miss Mander was preparing to go to bed.

The impact sent a back wheel on the car flying off and wrecked a section of wall next to the house's front door.

Miss Mander said it was the latest in a series of crashes on the road.

She is calling for action to be taken to prevent any further incidents.

Her partner Matthew Darby, aged 31, had gone out for a drink but rushed home when she called him to say what had happened.

She said: "I was shaking from head to toe, it scared me so much but I'm just really lucky."

"I was making a coffee in the kitchen and I heard a loud bang. I turned around and the wall was coming in and I could see the back end

of the car. I jumped over the rubble and tried to find out what had happened," she added.

The male driver of the car, aged in his 20s, was not injured in the crash, which happened at 10.50pm on December 30.

Miss Mander, a supervisor, said she had spoken to the driver after the crash and said it "could have been so much worse".

She added: "We have to walk past the front door to go up the stairs, so I could easily have been in the way when it happened, and I wouldn't be here now."

Insurance

The pair, who have owned the house for five years, now face a wait for the insurance claim to go through.

The front of the house is boarded up and they now have to enter their home through the back garden.

Mr Darby, a machinist, said: "Something has got to be done to stop all the crashes on this road."

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said officers attended the scene but no arrests were made.

Event for businesses

WORCESTERSHIRE County Council is inviting businesses to attend a workshop aimed at helping save money by becoming more energy efficient.

The authority has joined with the Carbon Trust to run a workshop offering advice to business owners on how to make energy efficient savings and become more environmentally friendly.

The event will take place on January 31 at the County Hall, in Worcester.

Businesses which would like to book a place are asked to log on to www.finditinworcestershire.co.uk

Rachel wins top scout award



Biomedical scientist Rachel Harris, who has earned a Queen's Scout award

VERSATILE Rachel Harris has earned the top scouting award in the UK after carrying out a host of activities around the globe.

Rachel, aged 25, of Wistmins Close, Milking Bank in Dudley, has been presented with the Queen's Scout award.

Rachel, who works as a biomedical scientist at Birmingham's City Hospital, was one of the first girls to join the scouts at the age

of 11, and she is now a leader with the 2nd Gornal Scout Group. She worked for a award over the last 18 months, including a three-week trip to carry out voluntary work at a visitor centre at Nyeri in Kenya.

She received her award from West Mercia county scout commissioner Paul Wong, and said: "It was a lot of hard work - but I'm very proud. It's good to have achieved it."

Hospitals revealing personal data leaks

PERSONAL details of patients have been leaked dozens of times at hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire, it has been revealed.

There have been 38 data breaches across the region's NHS hospital trusts in the past five years. The figures were revealed under the Freedom of Information Act.

There were 12 recorded leaks at the Dudley Group of Hospitals. Seven saw staff or contractors breach data rules, and in five cases details were either lost or mislaid, including in July 2009, a doctor giving a foster mother's address to the child's biological parent.

Paula Clark, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Protecting patient information is very important to us and we continually reinforce this with our staff."

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust leaked information 14 times, at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust there were five breaches. There were seven leaks at The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, but there were no breaches at the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

Oak tree is to be felled

PLANS to chop down a large oak tree outside a Dudley house have received the backing of officials.

The tree which is between two properties in Ellowes Road, Lower Gornal, is said to be in "poor" condition and part of its canopy needs removing due to health and safety.

The applicant Mark Beardsmore wants it to be felled due to its condition.

"Overall it is considered that as the tree will likely decline over the next few years it is considered that it would be appropriate to fell the tree," a report said.

Children's show

TICKETS have gone on sale for children's show Bob the Builder at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The performance, which will include well-known songs, will take place on April 12 at 1pm. Tickets are available from the box office on 01384 812812.

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Ray dies before
news of grant

A TENNIS club has netted nearly £50,000 towards improving its base. But the news came on the same days that a founder member of Kidderminster Tennis Club died.

Ray Shuck, of Lowe Lane, Wolverley, near Kidderminster, who was the driving force behind the setting up of the club in 1996, died six weeks after his 80th birthday.

Club president Peter Young said: "It is such a shame that Ray never got to hear about the grant."

Grants on offer
for youth groups

PROJECT leaders in Dudley are being reminded of the looming deadline to start applications for grants of up to £750. They will be handed out by Dudley Council throughout January and February.

A series of roadshows will be held about the £18,000 available to youth groups. The next three will be in Brierley Hill on January 14, on January 30 for the Stourbridge and Halesowen areas and in Colesey on February 11. Appointments can be booked on 01384 815173.

Centre will take
trees to recycle

FAMILIES can recycle their Christmas trees at a Stourbridge garden centre. Webbs in West Hagley is running the recycling scheme from January 5 to 9.

Last year hundreds of people took up the offer to make use of the free service and Webbs hopes it will prove even more popular this year. For more information you can visit the website webbsdirect.co.uk

Flower club set
for first bloom

HALESOWEN Flower Club will stage its first meeting of 2012 on January 12 at the Shenstone Theatre, Halesowen Library at 7.30pm, with a £4 entry fee.

The club raised £2,240 during events over the last year for children's charities. Cash this year will go to Troop Aid and Birmingham Craniofacial Unit.

Plan to be refused

PLANS to chop down a 30ft sycamore tree in a garden in Sedgley look set to be refused. Dudley Council said Stanningdale Road's Robin Watson's application should be rejected.

Littering
fines rise
to 2,200

MORE THAN 2,200 fines have been handed out to people dropping litter in the Black Country and Staffordshire in 12 months.

Anyone caught littering the street faces a penalty notice carrying a fine of up to £80.

It has generated tens for thousands of pounds for council coffers in the region.

Council bosses say residents are concerned about littering with one describing it as "unacceptable and inexcusable".

There have been 394 people fined in Dudley since April 2010 but council bosses said this was a drop.

Cabinet member for environment and culture, Councillor David Stanley said: "Littering is totally unacceptable and inexcusable and during the last full financial year our enforcement officers issued hundreds of fixed penalty fines for a range of offences.

"If people fail to pay fixed penalty notices we have shown time and time again that we will not hesitate to take a court prosecution.

In Sandwell 1,581 fines have been given out.

Around 112 were for children and teenagers who had to do a litter pick instead of paying the fee.

Get on your
bike invite

CYCLING groups will be staged in Stourbridge to encourage people to get on their bikes.

The Stourbridge Bicycle User Group (STOURBUG) will hold novice rides on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from Mary Stevens Park, starting on January 8. Rides will be short and sociable.

Chairman Russell Eden said: "These are for the beginner, anyone who wants to cycle, but may lack confidence, or for those who haven't cycled for a while."

Invite for fitness

FAMILIES are being invited to take part in two fitness events being held in Worcestershire in the new year.

Walks and cardio-vascular workouts are being held at

Top, Kingsway, Stourport, on January 15 and 22. Events take place from 1pm to 1.30pm and 2pm to 2.30pm on both days. For more details visit www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk or call 01562 732975.

Police weapons seizure includes 18 pistols

WEAPONS including almost 20 guns a knuckleduster and stun gun have been recovered from children as young as 11 in the West Midlands over the space of a year, new figures have revealed.

Police have also taken a handgun – possibly a replica – from a 12-year-old and removed a ball bearing gun found with a 13-year-old.

An iron bar, CS gas and baseball bats were all seized from youngsters under the age of 18.

Police chiefs said they were working hard with young people across the region to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a

weapon. The figures released by the West Midlands force through the Freedom of Information Act show in total 254 weapons have been taken off youngsters between the ages of 11 and 18 across the region between April 2010 and March 2011.

Imitations

Among the haul was 18 handguns including some which were imitations. Kitchen knives, craft knives, lock knives and a razor have all also been taken off youngsters.

Chief Inspector Sally Seeley said: "West Midlands Police continually works to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a

weapon, of any nature, particularly with young people living in the region.

"The possession of an illegal weapon, regardless of age, is a serious offence and will be dealt with robustly. The education of youngsters is a vital part of trying to make it culturally unacceptable to carry a weapon.

"Officers work with schools and colleges to ensure pupils are aware of the dangers, and the 'Tooled up?' package is a major part of our overall strategy to tackle violent crime.

"We want everyone between the ages of 11 and 16 to receive education about knives and knife crime and to fully comprehend the

seriousness of the situation, so that, at the very least, they can make a conscious decision rather than taking an unconscious journey."

Youngsters

Figures released by Staffordshire Police also show that 46 youngsters in the county have been involved in crimes with an offensive weapon between November 2010 and the end of October this year in locations including streets, homes and schools.

The force said in a statement it was working hard to "clamp down on violence and anti-social behaviour in all of its forms."

No puzzle for Geoff as his
cartoons draw on real life

From an audition to a beach in the summer – all British life is depicted in these cartoons by a veteran Black Country artist.

They take him more than two weeks each to produce – but end up in 1,000 pieces when they are sold as jigsaws.

Geoff Tristram, of Stourbridge, has so far completed nine for German manufacturers Ravensburger and hopes they will prove popular across the globe.

WH Smiths and Amazon are already stocking up on the 27in x 12in jigsaws, some of which were inspired by locations across the Midlands.

Each scene features scores of characters in different situations, with minute details that appear as the puzzle is put together.

Caricatures

During his 35-year career Mr Tristram, of Wollaston, has painted caricatures of snooker players at the World Championships in Sheffield and written a series of comedy novels.

This latest project came about when the 56-year-old sent Ravensburger some of his ideas and asked if they were interested.

The first piece he produced was "Talent Show" – a chaotic scene featuring a sword swallower, an Elvis impersonator, a contortionist and others auditioning for "Britain's Got Strictly X-Rated Talent on Ice".

Each image takes him between two and three weeks to complete. He starts with a theme, and then makes a list of possible characters, before drawing them on tracing paper.

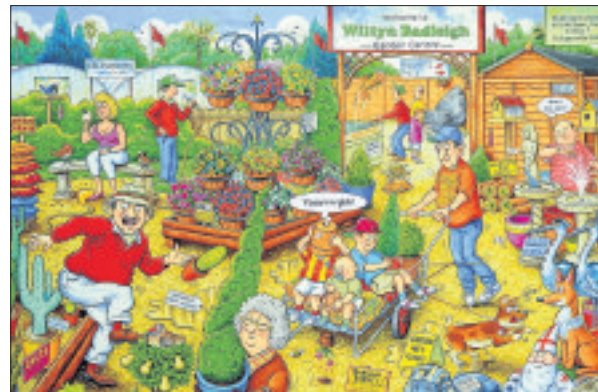
He then traces them again on to the main drawing board, slowly building up the scene and fitting in extra details. Each picture is set in a fictional place with comical names such as Knotworth Bothryn-withe, which is used in a High Street scene based on Wollaston.

Mr Tristram, of Eggington Road, said: "You need plenty of detail for jigsaws as otherwise a lot of the pieces would be too similar."

He said he was "very proud" of the cartoons and had enjoyed coming up with some of the jokes. He added: "The manufacturers are very keen for the jigsaws to have plenty of humour, but you sometimes have to make sure they're either not too subtle, or not too crude."



Geoff Tristram with two of his fun pieces that have been turned into new jigsaws



Based on Barnett Hill Garden Centre in Clent, this depicts the Wiltyn Badleigh centre on a hot summer's day with all sorts of activities going on with the customers



Geoff's cartoon called Canal Holiday is inspired by the canals in Kinver. He took photos of the area and barges beforehand

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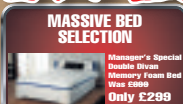
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CAN'T help noticing when Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowes opens his mouth, that his teeth seem to belong to two social strata. The top teeth are gleaming showbiz white but the lower teeth are traditional British ivory. Upstairs, downstairs?

□□□□□□□□

OVER the festive period, some parts of the United Kingdom were a full 30 deg C warmer than they were this time last year. Tell me again. Why exactly will an average rise of 2 degs C be a global catastrophe?

□□□□□□□□

AT THE time of writing, there is only one comment on the official website of Aidan Burley, the MP who attended a Nazi-themed stag party.

The emailer declares loyally: "In my opinion Aidan you have done an excellent job as an MP. ... I believe this should be a lesson to you on how the media portray things."

Priceless.

□□□□□□□□

I DON'T understand the excitement at the revelation, nearly 30 years after the event, that the Argentine battleship General Belgrano was sailing towards, not away from, the exclusion zone when she was torpedoed and sunk by a British submarine in the 1982 Falklands War.

Argentina never recognised the exclusion zone, so that issue is largely irrelevant. Argentina's naval commander later declared that, if he had commanded the British fleet, he would have sunk the Belgrano.

The only folk who made an issue about it were enemies of Margaret Thatcher here in Britain who claimed it was a deliberate attempt to scupper peace talks.

In fact, the talks resumed after Belgrano and HMS Sheffield had both been sunk. Unfortunately, the Argie invaders refused to leave the islands and the rest, alas, is history.

□□□□□□□□

A READER aiming to lead a healthier life in 2012 says he intends to follow the Cardiologist's Diet - if it tastes good, spit it out.

□□□□□□□□

MORE gems from the grammar of weather forecasting, collected by a reader:

- * "Freckled with showers"
- * "Unfettered sunshine"
- * "Showers will rumble in and shuffle out"

□□□□□□□□

AUNTIE Beeb was technically correct in referring to the kid stabbed to death in London's Oxford Street as "an 18-year-old man."

At 18 Brits can vote, drink, hire a car and borrow money. They can also join gangs, get into silly "respect" arguments and stab each other.

But when the fight is over, it is not a man lying in the morgue.

It is somebody's little boy and you can only despair at the sheer pointless waste of it all.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hopes to improve village traffic flow

MEASURES to improve traffic flow through Gornal are being considered by councillors following an upgrade of a busy bus station.

Restricted waiting times, yellow lines and improved kerbs could be introduced in parts of the village during the next financial year, it has been revealed.

Dudley Council have said councillors in the area were considering

appropriate measures and would submit their views in the coming months. Firm plans would then be drawn up.

Bosses from the authority said proposals were still at a very early stage and the work, when agreed, would be carried out in the 2012/13 financial year.

The work follows improvements to Gornal Wood Bus Station which

are scheduled for completion early in the New Year.

Four new shelters have been installed at the busy interchange following months of talks between the council and transport authority Centro.

Parking

Councillors will also consider creating additional parking in the village but any work would not take

place until another financial year.

Council highways officer Peter Vangersdaele said: "Presently ward councillors for Gornal are considering proposals for what traffic management would be appropriate for the area.

"This could include the introduction of restricted waiting times in some areas or double yellow lines in others."

Council's fraud hotline gets five calls a month

TWO investigations have been launched by Dudley Council chiefs after a new hotline and website was set up to catch workers suspected of stealing or misusing resources.

Farming shop gets backing

A FARMING and machinery store aims to open an outlets on a Kidderminster trading estate creating up to 35 jobs.

TFM plans to revamp a former cash and carry warehouse site to create the store near Hoo Farm Industrial Estate in Worcester Road.

The shop intends to sell a wide range of agricultural products, DIY tools and gardening equipment.

It will also sell a range of outdoor clothing and footwear.

The firm has applied for planning permission and the scheme has been recommended for approval by officers at Wyre Forest District Council.

A final decision will be made over the application on January 10.

According to a report by council planning officer Paul Wrigglesworth, the business is expected to have a turnover of up to £9million by 2016.

The existing car park will undergo a revamped to provide 81 spaces under the proposals.

The site has been on the market for five years but had not received any interest from firms other than TFM.

The hotline was also for catching outside groups which falsely obtain contracts or grants.

The authority set up the scheme in October so people and workers can blow the whistle on staff or groups they believe are wrongly using the authority's cash and equipment.

Councillor David Blood, cabinet member for finance, said: "The fraud hotline is receiving an average of five calls per month."

He added: "This is an excellent start. So far we have two investigations on going and no prosecutions to date."

"Taxpayers, service users, local people and the council all have a vested interest in ensuring that council money and property is protected from those who seek to steal or misuse it."

Specialist

As part of the scheme residents and council staff are able to report any suspicion of fraud which will then be investigated by a specialist team.

This includes fraudulently getting cash people are not entitled to, including payments for contracts, supplies or grants.

It can also include the stealing or misusing of council resources, such as stores, equipment, vehicles or buildings belonging to the authority.

Suspected fraud can be reported at www.dudley.gov.uk/fraud, on the 01384 814242 hotline where people can record a message or by letter to head of audit services at Council House, Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HF.

Fire-hit pub back in business



Owner Mike Enright in the gleaming new bar at The Grange pub in Dudley

A DUDLEY pub has risen from the ashes to serve customers once more.

Three blazes damaged The Grange, in Himley Road, following numerous attacks by metal thieves.

But now the pub has been transformed after a six-month project and has reopened. New owner Mike Enright, aged 40, brought the pub four years ago but was left dismayed

when his plans for a new bar and restaurant stalled following the vandalism.

However, the father-of-two decided to start rebuilding the pub himself earlier this year.

The pub was completely stripped back to its brickwork before a new modern decor and bar were installed. Around 15 part time jobs have been created.

Kris joins the fight on cancer tablets

A KIDDERMINSTER man with leukaemia says he has been inspired by the birth of his first son to fight plans to stop giving out "life-saving" cancer drugs on the NHS.

The tablets cost £30,000 per patient a year.

Kris Griffin did not know how long he would survive when he was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia four years ago but now his son Luca has now been born using sperm he banked at the time he says he is determined to help others.

He was prescribed Dasatinib, which gave him back a normal life expectancy, and he and his wife Kelly then decided to try for a baby.

The 36-year-old is fighting for other victims to have access to the drug, which is under threat of being axed from the NHS after recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Mr Griffin, of Selba Drive, said: "The drugs I take every day keep me alive."

He went to Parliament to meet MPs campaigning to keep the drugs. Mr Griffin, who works in marketing and PR, said: "I think I made a slight ripple in a rather big pond."

Public view on libraries

THE PUBLIC will be given a say on plans to move two libraries and make a third share its building with other services. A consultation is being launched on the proposals for Wyre Forest as part of a review of the council's library services in a bid to save £1.8 million.

Bosses have app-approved proposals to move other services into the Kidderminster Library building.

They have also rubber stamped plans to move Stourport Library, in Worcester Street, into the town's Civic Centre and also to relocate Bewdley Library.

It's panto time

A DRAMA group will start the new year with the pantomime Babes in the Wood. Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company will be performing it at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from January 14. Performers are already lining up a series of charity concerts.

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School is making progress

A MIDLAND school has improved by two grades to be given the top rating by Ofsted inspectors.

Burleigh Park Primary in Stourport was rated "satisfactory" – grade three out of four – in 2008 but has now been classed as "outstanding".

Three years ago concerns were raised that some pupils were not progressing at the same rate as others. But this time the youngsters were praised for "outstanding progress academically and personally" and for exceptional achievement.

The report by inspector Patricia Pothecary said: "The school is a very happy, vibrant and productive learning community, where high quality, stimulating teaching takes place throughout the day."

"Pupils are rarely off task in lessons and are exceptionally keen to reach the next level in their work. This highly motivated attitude is evident in a very wide range of subjects, from their impressive enthusiasm in music and topic lessons to their inquisitiveness and enjoyment when a planetarium visited the school."

Headteacher Janet Bickerton was singled out for being "exceptional in improving the school".

Events from concert hall

A CELEBRATION of Swedish pop legends Abba is among the events taking place at a Black Country venue.

The event, by the Smack-kee group and called Abba: The Show, will be staged at Dudley Concert Hall, in St James's Road, on February 21 from 2pm.

Tickets are priced £11. Next month visitors will be able to take a musical journey from the days of Music Hall through to the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. All Our Yesterdays will be held on April 3 from 2pm.

Tickets for both shows are priced £11 and can be booked on 01384 812812.

Police meeting

PEOPLE in Dudley will be able to raise any issues of concern at the next Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting which will take place next month.

The gathering will take place at Dudley Police Station on New Street on January 30 from 7pm.

Work to repair glassworks to get underway

WORK to repair a historic former glassworks will finally get under way next week after months of delays – kick-starting plans for a £5 million museum at the site.

Problems with an insurance claim have held up the work at the old Stuart Crystal factory in Wordsley after a huge blaze ripped through the building in May.

Developers originally expected the repairs to be done within weeks of the fire but it has been set back by a series of problems. The start date for the work has been put back a number of times.

However, bosses insist it can go ahead

after the new year celebrations. They want to get it done so planning can continue for a £5m glass museum linked to the nearby Red House Glass Cone, via an underground tunnel. The roof needs to be removed as it is still resting in the position where it collapsed during the fire.

Damaged

The upper levels of the walls will be taken down as they were badly damaged by the flames.

David Freer, director of site owners Complex Developments, said: "The work will get started and should only take a maxi-

mum of four weeks with a good headwind. There have been a few problems and we wanted to get it all done before the weather gets too bad."

Mr Freer said that the overall timescale for the museum project should not be affected.

An application for European funding is currently being drawn up and should be submitted in the coming months.

There were fears the building would have to be demolished, throwing the scheme into doubt, but engineers decided that the main structure could be saved

after it underwent a series of inspections. The blaze in May also gutted the building and left a great deal of damage to some of the walls.

Since then there have also been a number of vandalism attacks which included an arson attack in one of the other six units on the site.

Transformed

Under the plans, the six listed buildings on the Stuart Crystal site would be transformed into a new glass museum with an underground link to the Red House Glass Cone.

Major new supermarket to replace town's office block

PLANS for a new supermarket in the heart of Dudley town centre will be submitted in the spring, bosses have announced. Developers are currently drawing up proposals.

They are planning to build the store on the site of run-down office block, Cavendish House.

Under the plans the empty building will be knocked down to make way for the scheme.

Dudley Council has been working towards a new supermarket for some time believing it would help to kick-start regeneration and create hundreds of new jobs.

Cavendish Quarter Properties Limited – a subsidiary of Abstract Securities Ltd is working with the council on the proposals.

The firm plans to clear the site as well neighbouring land to build the supermarket.

Spokeswoman Lisa Menie said the developer was working towards submitting a planning application to the council some time in the spring.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Angus Adams has previously welcomed the scheme saying it would be "major element" of the town regeneration.

by Heather Large

While Abstract's development director, Christopher McPherson, said the proposed development would "anchor an historic and prominent gateway into Dudley."

The firm has now begun legal discussions to acquire surrounding land.

Cavendish House in Trindle Road has stood empty since a security firm moved out in 2008.

Residents in the town have been campaigning for the run down building to be demolished.

Drivers

They said the building, which can be seen by thousands of drivers along Dudley Southern Bypass each day, was an "embarrassment".

Many of the windows are boarded up or broken and it has become a target for vandals.

When plans for the town were unveiled in 2008 it was originally hoped that Cavendish House could be transformed into a hotel but the scheme never got off the ground.

Jack's heartbreak over missing dog



Jack Hewitt, from Nield House Farm, Kidderminster, who is upset because his six month old Boxer dog, Freddie, is missing, believed stolen

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Jack Hewitt has had a miserable Christmas after his best pal, Freddie the boxer dog, went missing – presumed stolen.

Freddie, aged six months, has not been seen since December 15, when he was playing with the Hewitt family's other two, older, boxers at their farmyard near Kidderminster.

"We've searched down badger holes and all over the area and can only think that Freddie has been stolen," said Jack's mother, Debbie Hewitt, aged 43.

"We think he must have got under the perimeter fence of our farm and been picked up by someone outside."

"He has an electric collar, with his name and our number on, so someone finding him could have let us know."

Luckily

"One of our other boxers, Maddie, was stolen two years ago but luckily we found her and got her back."

"Now we fear Freddie has been stolen."

The family has reported the loss to police, local kennels and vets in case anyone reports finding Freddie.

Mrs Hewitt, of Nield House Farm, Worcester Road, Harvington, said: "Jack has been devastated – it's ruined our Christmas not knowing where Freddie is."

Anyone who has any information about the dog's whereabouts should contact the police or the Hewitt family on 01562 777651 or 07710 374297.

NEWS in brief

£300,000 splash parks are backed

A £300,000 plan to turn two old paddling pools into larger splash parks in Wyre Forest have received the backing of councillors.

Council leaders said they were committed to improving equipment and activities in the district's parks.

A decision on which of the district's four paddling pools will be improved will be made once the council has approved its budget for 2012/13.

The plans will go to full council in February.

Fishermen net a big thank you

FUNDRAISERS in Kent have sent a "thank you" to champion fishermen in the Black Country, who have helped to net thousands of pounds for charity.

Grant Albutt, of County Park Avenue, Halesowen, and Steve Harris, of Cromwell Drive, Oakham, Dudley, have taken a group of anglers to the Nick Puncher Memorial charity match in Kent for the last eight years.

John Keatley, an angler from Kent, said: "They have helped us to raise thousands of pounds."

New website to help in the winter

RESIDENTS in Worcestershire, including the Wyre Forest district, are being given advice on how to stay safe during the winter months.

Worcestershire County Council has launched a web page offering tips for dealing with extreme weather. Residents can print gritting routes, save details of radio stations and get advice on how to keep their cars running.

RSPCA looking for volunteers

THE RSPCA is appealing for donations at a West Midlands pet store this week.

Staff are on the look-out for people to help with a collection at the Pets at Home store in Quinton on January 7 and 8.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Helen Tuite, on 07715 540518 or htuite@rspca.org.uk

Recital at church

ORGANIST Paul Carr will be playing his 100th recital at a Stourbridge church. The performance is at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Wordsley on January 8.

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Dunstall to open for free

A BLACK COUNTRY racecourse is throwing open its doors for free for the whole of January.

It is the fourth year of the initiative and entry to all 10 of the month's meetings will be free of charge.

The racecourse – Britain's busiest with more than 100 fixtures in 2012 – was highly commended at the recent Racecourse Association Showcase Awards for its free-entry drive.

Dunstall managing director David Roberts said: "Despite the difficult conditions that we have all been facing in 2011 the racecourse has had another fantastic year with great attendances. We can't thank our guests enough."

The offer is valid for the grandstand and visitors can apply for 10 free tickets per fixture. The dates are: Thursday, January 5; Friday 6; Monday 9; Friday 13; Monday 16; Thursday 19; Friday 20; Monday 23; Friday 27, Monday 30.

To take advantage of the offer race fans can phone 01902 390000; text RACE to 60070; visit www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk and select the fixture of your choice or email info@wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk

Plans approved

PLANS to turn a shop into a cafe on Brierley Hill High Street has been given the green light. Dudley Council planners gave the nod despite an objection from Brierley Hill traders association of too many food places there.

Festive arrivals will bring joy to parents in new year

NEW mothers and fathers were given the very best present possible, as they welcomed their own Christmas Day bundles of joy.

At Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, proud parents Mandi and Jatinder Chatha, 26 and 28, welcomed their first daughter at 2.56am.

The baby, who they did not name immediately, weighed in at 6lb and the couple, who live in Swindon, near Kinner, said they were "over the moon".

Shelley Cartwright, 30, was in familiar surroundings as she gave birth to son Ewan – as she is a staff nurse at the hospital. Born at 4.24pm, he is her and her partner David Westwood's first child.

Miss Cartwright, of Cradley Heath, who works on the coronary care unit, said: "It was the first Christmas where I haven't been working – but I've ended up at the hospital anyway."

Proud

Her fellow staff nurse Kate Donnelly, 26, gave birth to identical twin boys, Max and Tom, on Christmas Eve. The pair weighed in 6lb 2oz and 5lb 2oz.

Their father Karl, a 28-year-old Dudley firefighter of The Straits, Gornal, said: "We are proud and it's nice that they were born on Christmas Eve."

Walsall Manor Hospital had six arrivals before noon on Christmas Day. The first appeared at 12.32am. Penny Rose was born to parents Clare, aged 26, and Richard Selvey, of Pelsall. Penny weighed 8lb. Jane Marsters, 28, of Kilvert Road, Wednesbury, and her partner Keith Askey welcomed little Jayden into the world at 4.41am, weighing 7lb 6oz.



Mandi and Jatinder Chatha and their new baby



Karl and Kate Donnelly with Max and Tom



Proud mother Clare Selvey with her baby Penny Rose



Shelley Cartwright, David Westwood and Ewan



Jane Marsters cuddles up with baby boy Jayden

NEWS in brief

Partnership aims to boost business

MORE than 200 medium sized businesses in the Black Country will be able to take part in a national scheme to boost trade.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership has been chosen for a Government project looking at ways to help businesses grow.

Networking and improving leadership are the key issues to be tackled. Firms will also get information on such things as exporting.

Mike Dell, of the LEP said immediate benefits were hoped for.

Panto set to raise funds for charity

MEMBERS of Stourbridge Pantomime Company will present Robinson Crusoe at Stourbridge Town Hall from January 21 to 28.

Money raised from the evening and matinee shows will be donated to the Lupus Society and Reach.

Tickets are available from Peter Mills on 01384 836963.

They will also be available from the box office at Stourbridge Town Hall on 01384 812959.

Challenging walk

WALKERS can take part in a fitness challenge in Dudley – to walk 120 miles. It does not all need to be done at the same time, and successful people will go into a prize draw to win membership at Dudley Council's leisure centre.

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Antibiotics left me in pure agony says rocker

A DUDLEY man dubbed the "sixth member" of rock band Def Leppard has told how he has suffered a "torture beyond belief", caused by a little-known medical condition.

Keyboard player Richard Hancocks, whose stage name is Dick Decent, believes he has fluoroquinolone toxicity syndrome – "poisoning" by antibiotics prescribed to him more than two years ago for a prostate infection.

Since then he has often been in agony for long periods, with tendon and joint problems, unable to walk or even talk – and has not been able to work.

He has spent his life savings of £20,000 on treatment and natural medications in the Republic of Georgia and friends from the music business, including Def Leppard lead singer Joe Elliott, recently raised £3,300 for him in a gig, called Doing the Decent Thing, at The Roadhouse in Stirchley, Birmingham.

Condition

Dick, aged 51, who lives with his partner of 26 years, Sara Beades, and their children Sophie, 16, and Harry 10, in Boundary Hill, Lower Gornal, believes he has the condition after taking Ciprofloxacin.

"The last two years have been a torture beyond belief," he said.

"I have been in pain and cannot take medications like anti-inflammatory drugs because they exacerbate my problems."

Dick diagnosed himself when he stumbled across a description of fluoroquinolone toxicity syndrome on the internet.

He is calling on the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to take action to alert medics to the dangers of prescribing fluoroquinolone.

MHRA spokesman Shagufta Hailes, said: "Fluoroquinolones remain important antibiotics in the management of bacterial infections. Fluoroquinolone toxicity

syndrome is not a specific, recognised side effect of this class of antibiotics.

"However, fluoroquinolones may be associated with a range of side effects in some people, and some people may develop more than one side effect."

Richard Hancocks, aka Dick Decent, with partner, Sara Beades and children Sophie and Harry



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LETTERS

Do we really need all 600 MPs?

PAT McFadden quite rightly argues that local community identity is a key issue in looking at the way we wish to be seen and democratically represented.

What we are missing in this debate is the need to fundamentally question the functions and therefore the composition and size of Westminster Parliament. What is best dealt with at the regional, the local and national levels.

What is the case for 600 or 200 MPs? It's argued we still need 600 so that all constituencies are roughly the same size in terms of voters and that they maintain the local link. Clearly not all

constituencies will generate the same amount of local work and more fundamentally, we need to question why members of Parliament should be spending much of their time and taxpayers resources on local issues.

We all know that people do not stay still, they move around and the populations of local areas go up and down.

It is inevitable with the approach proposed that boundaries will continually have to be revised.

So much for the argument that the link between MPs and the local is paramount.

With Scotland, Wales, Northern Ire-

land and more especially London well down the devolution track with more to come, the functions of Westminster and its size and costs have to be questioned.

We are in sight of Westminster becoming, on domestic matters, a wholly English Parliament with decisions about policies in Newcastle, Penzance and Dudley all being taken in London or by its agents. England is too complex for this approach to be sustainable and any outcomes, rather than numbers an alternative is needed.

GEORGE MORRAN
Woodsetton
Dudley

One owner spoiling it for all other dog walkers

FOR the past six months a friend of mine has enjoyed walking her male puppy over a nearby common.

However, these daily walks have recently been spoiled owing to the thoughtless actions of another dog walker.

Someone has persisted in walking their bitch, who is in season, off the lead on the common.

My friend has been asked to "call her dog" who is being a "nuisance" to this owner's animal. I wonder why? It is irresponsible to walk a bitch in season, off the lead, in a public place, where dogs are also exercised. Do they not know that male dogs can detect her scent for long distances?

One inconsiderate dog owner can spoil it for the majority.

JACKIE WORTON
Brierley Hill

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Leaky roof just tops off eyesore centre

Ho! Ho! Ho! The new £18.5m leisure centre with a 25-metre swimming pool that has just opened in Bilston has got a leaky roof, it's a good job

Bilston comes under the City of Wolverhampton, because if it came under the Dudley Borough it would probably have been closed down and demolished.

Saying that, my own opinion of this new leaky roof leisure centre is that I always thought that new buildings had to blend in with the surrounding area, as far as I can see this leisure centre blends in with nothing - it's just a great big grotesque structure with nothing to compliment it at all.

It looks more like an incinerator plant, but then again, I live in Coseley so I am biased because we had a 33-metre swimming pool that only needed an alleged £2m for repairs including, as we were led to believe, a new roof for the first time in nearly 50 years, and it was a more superior building.

MR & MRS JORDAN, Coseley

Not just kids who watch the television

I WONDER if the television programme planners ever stop to consider what it is like to be old and unable to leave the four walls of the house.

Perhaps if they did there would not have been children's programmes on every channel during the mornings over the Christmas period.

I realise that children are on school holidays, but why can't they use just one channel for the children and put something for adult viewing on the other. To be subjected to children's films, cartoons and quiz programmes day after day is bordering on cruelty.

My poor 91-year-old mother was tearing her hair out and she has us to visit her, many do not have any-one. Television is the only companion that many elderly people have.

J JAMES, Wordsley

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thechronicle

New tactic over rise in stray horse problems

VETS could be called to sedate stray horses roaming in the Black Country in a bid to clear them from the streets. Councillors have been cracking down on the problem.

However, bailiffs are struggling to catch the horses.

Sandwell Council safety boss Councillor Derek Rowley said the aim in the new year was to get a grip on the problem.

He said there have been more reports of roaming horses in the Coneygree Road area of Tipton.

He said: "We are getting a number of sightings, but it is often difficult for us to catch and secure them."

"We are hoping to talk to the staff and vets at Dudley Zoo, and try and find a way to sedate the horses in order for us to remove them from the roads. We hope they will be able to help us."

He added: "The loose horses are dangerous. If they get onto the Birmingham New Road, it will be very bad news. If we can sedate them, we can safely remove them without causing a danger to the public."

Councillor Rowley said currently bailiffs are called in when the horses are

by Naomi Dunning

sighted. The animals are tethered and then lead to a horse box. Council officers have also tried erecting temporary fencing around the horses to help the bailiffs secure the animals.

Councillor Rowley added: "These horses, however, get excited and are more wild than other horses so it is often difficult to tether them, as they run off."

He said he hoped by herding the horses into open space and then sedating them using a dart, they could be removed safely.

The council will consult with vets.

Since April this year police have been rounding up stray horses in Pensnett and Brierley Hill areas following a new agreement with Dudley Council.

Dudley Zoo said it could not help but advised the council to consult with equestrian veterinary surgeons on sedation.

Poppy sales soar



Organiser Isabel Beebe with collectors, husband Don and John and Hazel Moore

POPPY sellers are celebrating after their annual collection raised more than £22,000 in less than two weeks. Volunteers from the Royal British Legion in Tipton saw sales soar in the run up to Remembrance Sunday with 2,200 more than the previous year - an increase of about 11 per cent.

Organiser Isabel Beebe said it was the largest haul she had seen in her two years in charge. Fourteen volunteers sold poppies in town centres and supermarkets. Mrs Beebe said: "I would like to thank all who contributed for their generosity." The legion also thanked staff from Asda in Great Bridge and Tipton and the Co-op, Tipton.

Group seeks leading lady

AN AMATEUR drama group is looking for an actress to star in a production. The Once Removed Theatre Company, based in Cookley, Kidderminster, is appealing for someone aged between 20 and 40 to appear in a comedy called Murdered to Death. The show will run at the Rose Theatre in Kidderminster from March 22 to 24.

Anyone interested should call 01562 850747.

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The Maypole Dairy in Dudley's Market Place was typical of the kind of grocery store that used an overhead cash-carrying system to connect counters to the cashier



Maiden & Evans, of High Street, Dudley, display the meat in the traditional way before the First World War



James Hobbs' shop in Halesowen has now closed but in this 1980s picture we see the traditional approach to the ironmonger to the problem of displaying his wares



Teddy Gray's shop in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, was a traditional confectioner's shop - selling the family's own brands of sweets and herbal remedies

The days when shopping was a hands-on business

ALTHOUGH memories traditionally associated with Christmas concern carol singing, trees, family consumption of large meals, snowballs and sleigh bells and yuletide logs, the other ritual Christmas is the mysterious business of "shopping".

This year an amazing amount of Christmas shopping will have taken place on the internet, and crowds will be drawn to places like Merry Hill where shopping is celebrated as one of the nation's favourite family-orientated leisure activities.

Even so, every person old enough to enjoy the delights of a senior citizen's bus pass will recall a different world of shopping in which our Black Country town centres played a greater part.

Like so many other activities, shopping is now a subject that evokes nostalgia when it comes to our memories of how things were

MEMORY LANE by Ned Williams

done in the not-so-distant past. One example is the over-head cash carriers - a network of wires almost a ceiling level - connecting shop counters to cashiers' offices.

Little metal canisters clattered along these wires conveying the bill and our money to the shop's central cashier. The return trip brought us our change and the receipt.

Grocery stores such as those run by George Mason, or the Co-operative Societies, favoured these carriers. The last one in the Black Country ceased to function in 1987. It had been used in a menswear shop in Cross Street, Willenhall.

Every trade had features that have now become fond memories. One trade that seems to exhibit a sense of history and tradition is the preparation and sale of meat. Many butchers' shops are still local family

businesses, and many promote nostalgia but putting a picture of their business "back in grand-dad's day" on display.

These often show a shop-front covered in displays of meat. Sometimes staff pose with the tools of their trade - evoking such phrases as "family butcher" and "slaughtered on the premises".

Think of a butcher and you will find that you recall wonderful tiled interiors, worn wooden chopping blocks and a world where there was always sawdust on the floor.

If such memories seem gruesome allow yourself to dwell on the memories of other shops - perhaps you liked sweet shops where the products were all stored in large jars, or pharmacies where rows of drawers behind the counter seemed to contain every conceivable cure for every condition.

Some dream of shoe shops that seemed like caves lined with thousands of cardboard boxes, or toyshops that were especially enticing to children.



Henry Morral's menswear shop when it was in Hall Street, Dudley, has been now been reconstructed at the Black Country Living Museum as a typical example of a gent's outfitters

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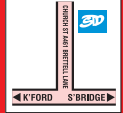
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Family and friends pay tribute to grandfather

A RETIRED electrical engineer from the Black Country who died after being hit by a car was "one in a million" who will be much-missed, family and friends have said.

by Lee Watton

Tributes have been paid to 86-year-old grandfather Gwilym John who was struck by a Mazda car while out walking in Oxted, Surrey. Mr John, of Halesowen, had been visiting his family.

He was on his way to meet friends when the collision took place last Friday. His son, Hywel, described his father as a loving man who had remained active throughout his life. "He used to go swimming two or three times a week and loved to take his neighbour's dog for a walk," he said.

"My father suffered a stroke earlier this year and through hard-work and determination learned to walk again. This is why it is all the more tragic for him to lose his life in this way."

Mr John, who was an electrical engineer at the GEC Plant in Blackheath for many years, was staying with his son, daughter-in-

law Helen and grandchildren Carys, 14, and Owain, 12, over Christmas.

He had lived in Halesowen for more than 40 years after leaving his native Wales first for Scotland and then Leeds.

Mr John had lived alone since the death of his wife, Mabel, in 2006. The couple had been married for 47 years.

He came from a mining family in Swansea and was the first to attend grammar school and later University College in London.

His son added: "My father really was one in a million. He was quick-witted with a quip to draw humour from any situation and always liked to come down and spend time with us."

Mr John's neighbour and friend for 42 years Jack Cartwright said: "He was a lovely man."

100th show for Paul



Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Church where he will be giving an organ recital

AN ORGANIST will celebrate performing his milestone 100th concert at a Black Country church this month.

Paul Carr, aged 37, will be playing his favourite pieces at the latest in his series of Sunday Afternoon Organ Music concerts at Holy Trinity Church, in Wordsley High Street, on January 8 at 3pm.

Mr Carr is president of the Birmingham Organists Association and director of music at St Paul's Church in the city's Jewellery Quarter. He originally performed at a Methodist church in Cradley Heath up until about eight years ago when it closed.

"It is great to have reached my 100th show and I'm really looking forward to performing some of my favourites," said Mr Carr, from Amblescot. Among the pieces will be Prelude and Fugue in B by Marcel Dupré and Mr Carr will be seen in action projected onto a large screen at the front of the church.

Appeal for therapists

A cancer charity in the Black Country is appealing for qualified complementary therapists to volunteer to provide free sessions for patients.

The White House Cancer Support in Dudley offers a variety of services including support groups, relaxation classes and free complementary therapy sessions to patients and their carers. Anyone interested can call 01384 231232.

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Zoo celebrations to begin in May

CELEBRATIONS marking the 75th anniversary of the opening of Dudley Zoo will begin in May, it has recently been announced.

Bosses have revealed they are planning a series of commemorative events for visitors in honour of the milestone.

The first one is scheduled to take place on May 6 – the date the zoo in Castle Hill first opened to members of the public back in 1937.

Before then, staff will be busy working on several exciting new projects around the 40-acre site, including creating a new walk-through attraction called Penguin Bay so visitors can get a close-up to the animals.

This will involve changing the layout of the penguin pool used by the 60-strong group of rare Humboldts.

Elsewhere on site, improvement work will be

carried out on the tiger enclosure to create an eye-level glass viewing area offering new views of the animals.

In May restoration work will get under way to bring back to life the 1958 chair lift, which transported visitors 125 feet up Castle Hill before being it was closed due to fears over safety in 2000.

The lift was opened by comedian Richard Hearn, who played the madcap character Mr Pastry and John Price, was one of the first to ride it.

Revamp

It is expected to be completed by mid-summer and it is part of a £1.15million project paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Other work as part of the scheme will include the restoration of four of Dudley zoo's famous Tecton buildings.

The revamp will include the landmark wave entrance to the zoo and also the bear ravine.

Bosses are also working on plans for a new £300,000 'welcome plaza' which will have a shop and a cafe.

There will also be a family toilet block and ticketing points next to the flamingos, chair lift and camels.

Meanwhile for younger visitors there will be additional play equipment installed throughout the site.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "It's going to be a fantastic year."

"Not only is it our 75th anniversary, we'll also be finalising plans for the new entrance, retail complex and Tecton interpretation centre which will go on public display."

"There will be additions to the animal collection and, of course, the chairlift will be restored, so there's a lot to celebrate."

Cautious welcome over interest on clubhouse

AN EYESORE former clubhouse in Stourbridge could remain disused for a long time to come despite fresh interest being shown in the site from buyers, according to a councillor.

Stourbridge War Memorial Club, in Ambleside High Street, has stood empty for nearly a decade and has been hit by fire, bad weather and disuse. Agent Lee, Shaw Partnership today said the site was once again being considered by potential buyers.

But Councillor Pat Martin, who has called for action at the site for many years, said she believed it would be a while before progress was made.

She said any developments for the site would be strictly limited because of its location on a main road and next to three sets

of traffic lights. "I am pleased to hear there is some interest in the site again but we have been here before a number of times over the past 10 years," she said.

"This building cannot be used as a club or venue again simply because of its location. When the war memorial club was first built there things were very different."

"There are far more vehicles on the road now. Building a venue at this spot would lead to traffic chaos on a busy road and main route into and out of Stourbridge town centre. It would be excellent if the site was sold but what would go there?"

Councillor Martin said the best option was if the site was put to community use or if it could be taken over by Stourbridge FC which has its ground nearby.

Panto perfection



Jenny Altindas and Sara Shell who made 140 different outfits for Peter Pan at the Rose Theatre. With Jenny and Sara is Yasmin Green who is starring in the show

SEAMSTRESS Jenny Altindas grew up with the family story that she was related to famous children's author JM Barrie.

But she never dreamed she would one day be making 140 outfits for a pantomime version of his all-time favourite story, Peter Pan, at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre.

Jenny, maiden name Barrie, said: "Dad's family is from north of the border and always said we were related, but I don't know of any proof," she said.

"I do feel a link making costumes for the production of Peter Pan and it would make it even more special to prove we were related."

"We're too busy at the moment, but I hope to have a go at tracing the family history after the show to see if it is true."

She runs bridal gown store The Wedding Rooms in Bewdley Road, with her daughter Sara Shell.

The runs until tomorrow night.

Market covering costs of £140,000 per year

DUDLEY Market is continuing to thrive despite the downfall of other pitches across the region, council chiefs have said.

Bosses say the venture has never run at a loss and is continuing to cover its £140,000 a year running costs by its income.

Other markets across the region have struggled such as the private-run Brownhills which was axed earlier in the summer and Willenhall which is running at a £50,000 loss.

Some markets are continuing to do well including the main Walsall site which is making a £136,000 profit a year.

Dudley Market cabinet member Councillor Tim Wright said: "The market's running costs are around £140,000 each year to cover staff salaries, refuse removal and minor repairs."

He said the area's sole outdoor market has never operated at a loss as costs are covered by rent charges.

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Jan-Apr 2012 3rd Edition

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Cont. Improvers: Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-20.30, 11 wks. £42.10 #

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Mon. 20th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 5 wks. £25.50 #

INTRO TO FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 20th Feb 13.30-15.30 OR Thurs 1st Mar. 19.00-21.00. Both 5 wks. £36.00 #

GOING FURTHER WITH FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 9th Jan. 13.30-15.30 5 wks. £36.00 #

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Wed 1st Feb 10.00-12.00 OR Thurs 2nd Feb 19.00-21.00. Both 7 wks £50.40 #

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Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #
Wed 11th Jan. 10.00-12.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #
Thurs 12th Jan. 10.00-12.30, 11 wks. £70.20 #
Thurs 12th Jan. 13.30-15.30, 11 wks. £56.10 #

INTRO. TO DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP

ELEMENTS Mon 9th Jan. 10.00-12.00 OR Wed. 22nd Feb. 13.30-15.30. Both 5 wks. £49.50 #

CONT. DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP

ELEMENTS Wed. 11th Jan 13.30-15.30 OR Mon 20th Feb. 10.00-12.00 Both 5 wks. £49.50 #

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Mon 20th Feb. 19.00-21.00 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Mon 12th Mar. 19.00-21.00, 3 wks. £21.60 #

ROSES AND CASTLES

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JEWELLERY MAKING

Short'N'Sweet Beginners: Mon 23rd Jan. 19.00-21.00 OR Tues. 24th Jan. 10.00-12.00, Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY MAKING

Improvers: Mon 27th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 5 wks £25.50 #

OR Tues. 13th Mar. 9.30-12.30, 3 wks. £22.95 #

FACE PAINTING and GLITTER TATTOOS

Mon 20th Feb. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £24.60 Cons. £19.20 and £8

FLOWER ARRANGING

Short'N'Sweet Mon 23rd Jan. 19.00-12.00. 3 wks. £25.60 Cons. £20.20 and £9

Continuing: Mon. 20th Feb. 10.00-12.00. 6 wks. £30.60 #

FLORISTRY

Short'N'Sweet Tues 26th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £25.60 Cons. £20.20 and £9

Continuing: Thurs 23rd Feb. 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £30.60 #

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Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-21.00. OR Fri 13th Jan. 10.00-12.00

Both 5 wks. £25.50

STITCH TEXTILE APPLIQUE

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Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

UPHOLSTERY

Short'N'Sweet Tues 21st Feb. 10.00-12.00 OR Mon. 13th Mar. 19.00-21.00 Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Continuing Make Up Wed 1st Feb. 13.30-15.30 OR Tues 28th Feb. 18.00-20.00 Both 5 wks. £25.50 #

INTRO. TO AROMATHERAPY

Short'N'Sweet Tues. 24th. Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

INTRO. TO INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE

Short'N'Sweet Tues. 21st. Feb. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

INTRO. TO REFLEXOLOGY

Short'N'Sweet Tues. 13th. Mar. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

DE-STRESS: REFRESH: RE-BOOST

Tues. 28th Feb. 13.30-15.30 OR Thurs 1st Mar. 19.00-21.00. Both 5 wks. £25.50 #

YOGA

Wed 22nd Feb. 19.15-20.45, 6 wks. £37.20

PILATES

Beginners: Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Beginners: Wed 11th Jan. 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Beginners: Thurs 12th Jan. 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Improvers: Thurs 12th Jan. 19.05-20.05, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Improvers: Thurs 12th Jan. 20.10-21.10, 11 wks. £33.00 #
Beginners@Oakfield. Fri 13th Jan. 10.00-11.00, 11 wks. £39.60 #

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Tues 10th Jan 20.05-21.05, 11 wks. £33.00

BALLROOM and LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

All classes start Mon. 9th Jan. for 11 wks. Beginners 18.00-19.00, £35.75. Improvers 19.00-20.15, £44.70. Intermediates 20.15-21.30, £44.70.

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

Courses begin Mon 9th Jan for 11 wks. Fee £33.00 #
19.00-19.45 Beginners and Improvers:
19.45-20.30 Intermediates:
20.30-21.15 Beginners and Improvers

PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS

In a group of 2 or 1 to 1. Contact the office for further details

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RLSS NATIONAL RESCUE TEST for SWIMMING

TEACHERS/COACHES Thurs 29th and Fri 30th Mar. 2012, 8.30-16.00, £57.20, add. fees £26.95. 1 day retake subject to previous qualification and training £36.50, add. fees £26.95

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Sat. 25th Feb OR Fri. 23rd Mar. Both 09.00-16.00. 1 day. £36.50

PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY FIRST AID

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Cont. Beginners: Thurs 19th Jan. 20.00-21.00, 10 wks. £36.00 #
Improvers: Tues 10th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #
Intermediates: Mon 9th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #
Short'N'Sweet Fri 2nd Mar. 13.30-15.30, 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Intermediates: Thurs 12th Jan.

11 wks. 17.45—18.45, £43.25



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	11wk	12wk
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Improver.

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Intermediate 2.

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Intermediate 3.

Develops competence on all four strokes (25m) and a front and back stroke for 100m.

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AQUAFIT Wed. 12.40-13.25 £2.60

Wed. 19.00-20.00 £3.70

Fri. 12.40-13.25 £2.60

Sun. 9.00-10.00 £3.70

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* for young people 10-19 yrs old

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Campaign to save Hippodrome

Mayor has high hopes in New Year message

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to save a historic theatre from demolition – amid hopes it could be restored to its former glory by volunteers.

The old Hippodrome in Dudley opened in 1938 and was turned into the Gala Bingo Hall until it closed in September 2009.

But it now stands empty in Castle Hill – and Dudley Council has said the building could be torn down.

Campaigners want the site to be reopened as a theatre and say it could attract thousands of visitors to the town and be part of the massive regeneration which is planned for the centre of Dudley.

They are calling on people to come forward who would be willing to help restore the theatre or even work there once all the work has been done.

Malcolm Edwards, chairman of the local George Formby Society, is collecting a petition against the demolition plans and says he has been inspired by the Severn Valley Railway success.

He said: "I work as a volunteer on the railway and the work in recent years that has been done by an initially small group of volunteers has been incredible."

History

"The response I have had so far suggests that a lot of people agree and are keen to see the theatre back in use."

"It has a great history, with past performances by George Formby and Laurel & Hardy," added Mr Edwards.

"It stands on a gateway into Dudley and surely, if £6 million is being spent on a revamp of the marketplace, some money can be spared."

Mr Edwards, aged 75, has spoken to Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who agreed that some kind of action needs to be taken over the derelict building.

Mr Austin said: "The Castle Hill area should act as a gateway to the town centre and the Hippodrome should be a feature Dudley can be proud of."

The MP talking about the massive regeneration planned for other attractions to the town said: "It's just yards from two of town's biggest tourist attractions – the zoo and castle, and the Black Country Museum but the paint is peeling, there are enormous weeds and there's graffiti on the walls."

"It gives a terrible impression of the town and I can't understand why the council hasn't sorted it out."

Dudley Zoo is celebrating 75 years as visitor attraction in the town.

THE MAYOR of Dudley Councillor Michael Evans has issued his New Year message to residents – and says 2012 will be an "unforgettable" year as the town awaits the result of its bid to become the newest city in the Black Country.

Councillor Michael Evans has spoken of his pride at being the borough's first citizen in a year when the borough could be crowned a city.

Councillor Evans said: "2012 promises to be a truly unforgettable year for Dudley and all of its residents and I am honoured to be the Mayor at such an exciting time."

"Our bid for city status has gathered pace and we are one of the favourites to receive the honour when it is announced at some point in the first half of the year," added

councillor Evans. "The city status designation is being made to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and we will of course mark this occasion with numerous events," he said.

Remember

"And the London Olympics will also ensure 2012 is one to remember and we are already looking forward to welcoming the Olympic torch into the borough on June 30."

The Mayor also thanked all those who have helped support his two charities, The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and Leukaemia treatment at Russells Hall Hospital throughout the last year.

Taking a ramble into the new year



Leasowes volunteer Perry Adams, warden James Brooks and volunteer John Pete

WALKERS can welcome 2012 with a series of rambles around Dudley parks.

Walkers should meet at the reserve car park off Saltwells Lane, Quarry Bank. On January 21, wardens at The Leasowes will lead a hearty walk from 10am until 12.30pm. Walkers should meet at the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill and places should be booked by calling 01384 814642.

Places for the Saltwells walk can be reserved by calling wardens at the site on either 01384 812795 or on 07717 700790.

New play gear set to be unveiled at park

NEW EQUIPMENT will be unveiled at a children's play area in Halesowen to replace swings, slides and a climbing wall stolen by metal thieves.

The play equipment was cut down by thieves who struck on August 30 at the play area at The Leasowes in Halesowen.

Two swings, two slides, a climbing wall and a chain bridge were taken during the raid at the site just off Mucklow Hill. Borough bosses believe the equipment may have been taken to be sold on for scrap.

The equipment is expected to be finished and ready for children to use in the coming days.

Councillor David Stanley, said: "The sickening theft in August saddened everybody to think that people could stoop so low as to deprive children of a play area. We are delighted that we have been able to find the funds to replace the equipment and hope youngsters in the area will be able to enjoy it for many years to come."



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Fury on mail's non-delivery

RESIDENTS in two Black Country maisonettes are missing out on their mail – after it was decided the steps up to their homes were too dangerous for posties to climb.

The 14 steps lead to the homes of Cara Southall and her family and Dean Hanzel, in Wordsley.

Both residents are claiming the postman is not delivering any post to their addresses at all.

But Royal Mail insists it is missing their letterboxes out only when the steps are wet and slippery.

Miss Southall, aged 21, says she has no difficulty climbing the single flight leading to her home with a pushchair carrying her one-year-old daughter.

Shape-up sessions will help shed festive pounds

PEOPLE who want to ditch the Christmas pounds can sign up to a free weight management programme.

The 10-week Shapes programme is free to the overweight and provides exercise and nutritional advice at two of the Dudley Council leisure centres. Sessions run at Dudley Leisure Centre every Monday from 6.30 to 7.30pm, and every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8.30pm, from January 9 to March 14. Halesowen Leisure Centre will also run the programme from January 10 to March 15 with sessions every Tuesday from 6 to 7pm, and every Thursday from 6 to 8pm.

But she recently almost missed her daughter Amelia's baby vaccinations because a letter from her doctor was not delivered.

Miss Southall, partner Matt Taylor, 22, her five-year-old son Joshua and Amelia moved into High Street, Wordsley, about six months ago, at about the same time as neighbour Mr Hanzel, 21, moved in.

"I saw the postman last week and asked him why we weren't getting our mail and he said no postman would walk up the steps because there was no handrail," he said.

Sorting

Mr Hanzel eventually went to the sorting office in Stourbridge, about three miles away, to collect the post.

Miss Southall said: "When Dean went to get the post, there was a letter from the GP about going for Amelia's injections, which we would have missed. That makes me angry."

Royal Mail spokeswoman Val Bodden said: "We have spoken to the customers living at the two flats and explained that due to the hazardous nature of the steps leading to their front doors, we will deliver when we consider it is safe to do so."

"We apologise for the inconvenience caused," the spokesman added.



The 'dangerous' set of steps at the centre of the row

Marking up goods on offer

RESIDENTS in Dudley can get electrical equipment marked when police stage two community events this month.

People are invited to bring along items to the town's Churchill Precinct on January 7 and 14 for officers to mark property such as laptops and mobile phones.

The events will take place between 10am and 2pm on both days.

Dudley's Safe and Sound Partnership has also provided funds for police to buy purple bells which will be handed out to the over-60s.

These are designed to deter thieves who try to tamper with people's bags.

Pc Angela Hodgetts of Dudley police said: "We particularly want to UV mark the property of young people, items such as iPhone's are an easy target for opportunist thieves and by marking the property, if lost or stolen it can be easily identified and returned."

Plans for £1m boost are given the thumbs-up

PROPOSALS to pump in £1 million to boost economic regeneration in Wyre Forest have been approved by councillors.

District council leader Councillor John Campion said the move was a "significant" boost for the area and hoped the final plans would be confirmed in the new year.

It was proposed as part of a draft financial strategy discussed by Wyre Forest District Council's cabinet on Tuesday.

Councillor Campion said full details of how and where the money would be spent were still being finalised.

More detail is expected to be announced at the council's overview and scrutiny meeting on January 12.

Councillor Campion said the council also wanted to host a public forum with business, partner organisations and residents about the proposals in February. But he did reveal that another four jobs are likely to go in the next few weeks as part of the financial squeeze faced by the authority.

"Any job losses are regrettable but we are committed to having a workforce that the community needs," he added. The draft financial strategy for the next four years which includes a proposal to freeze the District Council's element of the council tax for 2012-13.

The proposed net budget for 2012-13 is £12.6m, a reduction of almost £1m or 7 per cent compared to the current financial year.

This follows a reduction in the in the grant that Wyre Forest District Council receives from Government of £850,000.

Sponsors needed



Deb Brownlee of St John's Preservation Group launches a new fundraising drive

A NEW sponsorship appeal has been launched by campaigners fighting to reopen a landmark Black Country church.

The St John's Church Preservation Group wants to raise thousands of pounds to restore the grade II listed building in Kates Hill, Dudley.

It is applying to the church commissioners for permission to lease the church and take over responsibility for the repairs.

And now the group is asking for pledges of funding from businesses, community groups and individuals. Details of sponsors will then be on display in the church and included in a special directory for visitors to the building to see.

Chairwoman Deb Brownlee said: "We are budgeting on needing £1,000 per week to run the building, plus restoration costs. Our present fundraising efforts can raise about £450 a week, and we are confident that we can create a sustainable project."

Anyone interested in sponsorship can register by email at savestjohnchurch@hotmail.co.uk or by calling 07871 195042.

Trauma centres bid to set up network

HEALTH officials from across the West Midlands have got together to discuss plans which will see a new trauma network set up for the region to improve the standard of care for the most serious injuries.

Under the plans there will be three major trauma centres in the region – at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospitals Trust. Each of the four main hospitals in the Black Country will become trauma units and will link to the three centres when the new services come into force in March.

But when the plans are in place, Dudley will lose 110 patients, Walsall will lose 81, New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton will lose 70, and Sandwell will see 112 people treated at one of the major trauma centres.

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Brewery in pledge over refurbishment of pub

A BREWERY has promised it will refurbish a landmark Black Country pub later this year after plans to carry out the work were delayed last year.

The Thorns pub, Quarry Bank, was expected to open sometime during last July or August but this was delayed as detailed plans were drawn up for the site.

And in September, bosses from Marston's Brewery said the scheme had been delayed indefinitely and it was not known when the refurbishment would be carried on the public house.

But the brewery have said the work would be taking place later this year but it was seeking new tenants to take over the site before any of the work would be carried out at the pub.

Recruitment is now under way and the brewery is hoping to have the pub up-and-running as early as possible this year once new bosses have been found to take over the site.

Bosses said they wanted whoever would be running the site to have a say in its refurbishment which is why people needed to be in place before any designs were eventually finalised.

Brewery spokesman Liz Slee said: "We are looking to refurbish The Thorns Inn next year and are currently in the process of recruiting new tenants to run this popular pub."

The pub which was well known for its carvery could again be reintroduced to food service when the site reopens.

New shelters at bus station



New bus shelters installed in Gornal Wood

WORK HAS started on a £14,000 scheme to replace bus shelters at a busy, but outdated, bus station in the Black Country.

Stands have been removed at Gornal Wood bus station and four new shelters installed in their place.

It marks the end of a year-long project to improve the station, in the heart of Gornal village. The new shelters will have full power and lighting to help security. Centro says they have also been specially designed to allow the future installation of real-time information screens.

These will tell passengers exactly when their next bus will arrive.

Work started at the bus station, which is used by hundreds of passengers, earlier this week with removal of the old stands.

Centro has previously said the size of the station will not be altered due to the num-

ber of buses which use the site and to allow for any expansion of services in the future.

Talks between the transport authority and Dudley Council have been ongoing for most of the year to find the best way of improving the station.

Plans were agreed following a meeting earlier this year, and the new shelters were then designed and placed on order.

Centro spokesman Steve Swingle said: "Work has now started on removing the old shelters and the new ones are being installed."

"These have been specially designed for this site and to accommodate future upgrades at the station."

"The work should be a big improvement for passengers on the previous shelters at the site. We are delighted the work is now taking place on this development."

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Fizzing funny tour



Actors and comedians Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls are now getting into characters ahead of Fizzog Theatre Company's forthcoming show

BLACK Country humour will be top of the bill as a theatre group is embarking on one of its biggest comedy tours to date.

Fizzog Theatre Company, based in Quarry Bank, will be staging The 50 per cent Funnier Comedy Tour at a host of venues throughout the region next month.

New sketches taking a wry look at life in the Black Country have been written by group founders Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls.

The shows, which start on February 9 at the Bridgnorth Theatre on the Steps, will also feature Phoenix Nights star Janice Pennington as her alter-ego Barbara Nice.

Deb Nicholls says the show will see the return of some of their popular characters.

Other dates booked are at Netherton Arts Centre on February 10 and 17, Birmingham Old Rep theatre on February 17 and Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre on February 24 and 25. Tickets are £15 and shows start at 7.30pm. Call 01384 816280.

Charity appealing for therapists to volunteer

A DUDLEY cancer charity is appealing for qualified therapists and exercise instructors to volunteer to help offer relaxation sessions.

White House Cancer Support offers emotional support, practical help and information to cancer patients and their carers in Dudley. Services include support groups, relaxation classes and free sessions of complementary therapy. Patients and their carers can receive up to 12 free sessions of therapy from Cancer Support if they are registered with the charity. Therapies offered include reiki, massage, reflexology and Indian head massage.

"To be able to continue to provide this service to those affected by cancer in Dudley, Cancer Support are appealing for volunteer therapists," said spokesman Helen Lees.

"A gentle exercise session runs at The White House every Wednesday morning and the charity is also in need of a volunteer instructor to take over the class."

To help contact the charity on 01384 231232.

Black belt family



Kelly Hadley, with, left, sister Kirsty, and Sophia Hadley

A TRIO of youngsters from the same family are celebrating after they all scooped their black belt in karate on the same day.

Sisters 16-year-old Kirsty and Kelly Hadley, aged 12, secured their title along with their 13-year-old cousin Sophia Hadley.

The three are used to doing things together as they all live on the same street, Old Park Road in Sedgley and all attend High Areal School. They all also started doing karate together four years ago.

Karen Hadley, mother to Kirsty and Kelly, said everyone in the family was very proud of all the girls. "They started doing karate together and have taken every single belt together. I think they enjoy it as it offers them discipline and keeps them fit and there is a nice social side to it as well. It has given them lots of confidence and they are able to defend themselves if needed as well."

The session took five hours to complete and Mrs Hadley added: "It was a big day for them, they wanted to do it together and have been willing each other on. We are really proud of the three of them."

Suspended sentence for thief

A MAN who stole trolleys full of food and drink from supermarkets in the Black Country and Staffordshire has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Dudley magistrates heard that Gary Holding, of Cradley Heath, had Alzheimer's and depression following the death of his daughter.

He was caught stealing whisky, meat joints and other food worth hundreds of pounds from stores around the region including in Netherton, Warley, Lichfield and Tamworth.

Holding, aged 51, of Sidaway Street, Cradley Heath, admitted stealing 48 bottles of whisky and vodka worth £400 on April 21, and two cases of whisky, 10 legs of lamb, 10 joints of beef and eight lamb chops, worth £375, on April 15 - all from Aldi at Cinder Bank, Netherton.

He also admitted attempting to steal a trolley of goods to an unknown value from Aldi in Netherton on April 22.

He further admitted stealing food worth a total of £152 from Aldi supermarket at Fazeley, near Tamworth, on October 10, food worth £124 from Aldi, Lichfield, on September 11 and meat worth £150 from Tesco Express in Tamworth, on October 6.

Supervision

And he also admitted committing a further offence while subject to a two-year conditional discharge, imposed by Warley magistrates on March 23, for stealing items worth £273 from Sainsbury's.

Dudley magistrates gave him a prison sentence totalling 35 weeks, suspended for 18 months, put him under the supervision of a probation officer

for 12 months and ordered him to complete 26 sessions at an alcohol misuse group.

He was also ordered to pay £400 costs and a total of £666 compensation for the thefts.

Mr Paul Selby, defending, said Holding was currently on a detoxification programme and had sent a letter of remorse for his offences to the court.

He added that Holding had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and was suffering depression following the death of his daughter.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, told the court that, on April 15, Holding went to Aldi in Netherton with another man, who distracted staff while Holding pushed a trolley load of goods out of the store.

The two men did the same on April 21 but, on April 22, Holding began to load a trolley but the manager was watching and, as he left and walked out of the store, he was detained by staff.

Tax break welcomed

BOSSES of businesses in the Black Country have welcomed a decision to keep tax relief for companies buying and clearing contaminated land.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had lobbied Government ministers over proposals to abolish the tax relief, which is known as Land Remediation Relief.

Now the Treasury has announced proposals to scrap the measure will not be pursued. LEP chairman Stewart Towse said: "These brownfield sites can act as a barrier to businesses setting up in the area."

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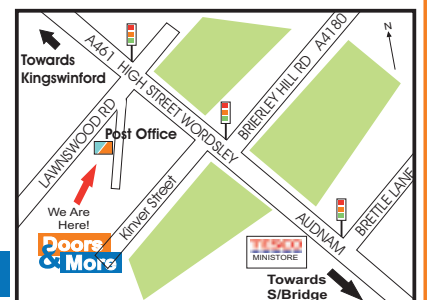


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Success in boosting places taken on apprenticeships

I **DELIVERED** a speech in the Commons commending the Government's success in boosting the take-up of apprenticeships.

Dudley South has seen a massive two thirds increase compared to 2009/10 with almost one thousand apprenticeship starts in the first year of the new Government.

With small businesses being such a vital part of the Black Country's economy I asked the Chancellor at Treasury questions what steps he is taking to reduce the cost of bank lending and credit for business and to confirm that guarantees under the Government's National Loan Guarantee Scheme are contingent liabilities, and so will have no effect on the country's balance sheet or deficit.

I was pleased the Chancellor was able to give me the assurance I was looking for and look forward to the NLGS benefiting borough businesses.

Exchange

BT have announced that the Brierley Hill exchange is being enabled for super-fast broadband.

I have written to BT stating that the equipment to be selected ought to be ECI Telecom-based and therefore housed in Eurocraft cabinets made here in Netherton,

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views on issues that matter



As the new year begins it is worth reviewing the economic situation. This Government will do whatever it takes to protect Britain from this debt storm.

otherwise we could have dozens of larger, inferior Chinese cabinets on our pavements.

I have been in correspondence with the lead delivery partner for the National Citizen Service in the Black Country.

I will have more to report on this in the coming weeks and months.

In the meantime to learn more visit www.direct.gov.uk/national-citizenservice

I have added my backing to the Trade Union Reform Campaign – www.turc.org.uk.

It is not right, particularly in a time of austerity, that some public sector workers should be paid full-time by

the taxpayer but spend 100 per cent of their time on union related organising and activities. This massive union subsidy must end.

As the new year begins it is worth reviewing the economic situation.

This Government will do whatever it takes to protect Britain from this debt storm.

This country is facing challenging times. This Government inherited the highest deficit in the UK's history.

But our commitment to tackling the debt means while much of Europe is engulfed in a debt crisis.

We will stick to our plan and show that we can live

within our means to protect confidence in our economy and keep interest rates low.

And support growth, improve fairness and help families with the cost of living where we can.

There have been no changes to the spending totals for the next three years, but we will act to stay on course to meet our debt and deficit targets.

We will make savings to protect our finances in the long-term, but until 2015 every single pound we save will be spent on measures to support growth, improve fairness and help families where we can with the daily cost of living.

Miracle

Labour's promises of quick fixes and more spending are like the promises of a quack doctor selling a miracle cure.

As sovereign debt concerns grow every day, Labour's alternative of more spending, more borrowing and more debt is even less credible than it was before.

Ed Miliband and Ed Balls' claim that more spending will actually lead to lower debt is the kind of something for nothing economics that got us into this mess in the first place.

I hope all readers had a wonderful Christmas and that we will all have a safe and prosperous new year.

Help us to manage demand for our A&E services

Research shows one in three of all people who go to A&E could be treated elsewhere in the community.

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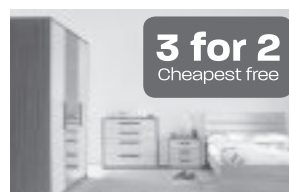
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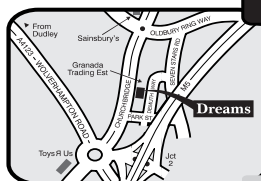
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Council tips inundated with rush to dump trash

ALMOST as traditional as turkey and tinsel – hundreds of cars joined queues for tips as they reopened after Christmas.

Queues formed at council tips including Stourbridge and Bloxwich, from the 8am opening time.

After Christmas, first in the queue at Stourbridge's Birmingham Street facility run by Dudley Council, was Steven Clarke, aged 45.

He arrived just after 7am. He said: "Last year the queues were horrendous – I came three times but gave up and went home."

Mr Clarke, of Seymour Road, Stourbridge, who runs a transport business, said: "The boot is full of boxes and wrapping paper and I've just chilled out reading the paper."

Richard Jackson, 45, of Dobbins Oak Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, and his son-in-law Marcus Henshaw, 34, of Birch Avenue, Quarry Bank, joined forces to take their rubbish, arriving at about 7.15am.

Mr Jackson said: "The queue was right round the ring road last year, so we decided to get it out of the way early today."

Tip staff numbers were boosted for the rush.

Cash boost

STAFF at a garage have raised £4,200 for Help For Heroes after completing the Three Peaks Challenge.

Workers at Westlands Toyota in Dudley scaled Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis, Mount Snowdon.

Club's raunchy dates



Geoff Tristram with the raunchy calendar he has produced to put Enville Cricket Club on the map

MEMBERS of a cricket club and have stripped off to put their village on the map.

Members of Enville Cricket Club have produced their own raunchy calendar, with the title The Only Way is Enville – a reference to the TV programme The Only Way is Essex.

First and second team members of the club, based near Stourbridge, struck some compromising poses to illustrate each month of the year. Most of the 150 charity calendars produced so far have already been sold, but more may be printed in the new year. The calendar was the brainchild of cricketer and artist Geoff Tristram, of Eggington Road, Stourbridge, whose son Jamie, 17, is one of the models featured.

The calendar is expected to raise around £700, with £200 going to the Georgina cancer unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and the rest to club funds.

Only a handful of the £10 calendars remain, call Mr Tristram on 01384 442881.

Mystery as buyer snaps up fire-hit Mount Hotel

A MYSTERY buyer has snapped up a landmark hotel which was abandoned for three years after shutting down suddenly following a severe blaze.

The Mount Hotel in Clent has stood empty since a fire ripped through the ground floor during a wedding reception in July 2008. The identity of the buyer remains a mystery.

Estate agents Walton & Hipkiss today revealed that the 15-bedroom property has been sold to a private concern.

And chartered surveyor Sonya Taylor said they had been instructed by the buyers not to release details of the sale price or their future plans for the site.

It had been listed as a commercial property, so would be expected to remain as a business.

Residents living nearby welcomed the news and said they hoped it would be brought back into use soon.

The hotel had been left with furniture inside and calendars from 2008 on the walls until it was recently cleared out and the windows boarded up.

It had become a magnet for vandals and locals were

by Adam Burling

concerned the hotel would deteriorate, as birds started nesting in a hole in the roof.

Carol Smith, 54, who lives nearby said: "It is such a recognisable building and people used to travel from far and wide to stay there, so I'm glad it looks like something will be done with it."

Disrepair

"Hopefully it will stay as a hotel and retain its features as it is a really nice-looking place that has just fallen into disrepair."

Previous owner Edward Gibbs said, in December last year that his £500,000 damage claim had been rejected by an insurance firm.

When the blaze broke out he re-entered the burning building before fire crews arrived to go to the rescue of two guests who failed to be woken by smoke alarms.

Mr Gibbs could not be contacted.

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We would like to invite you to a public exhibition to view and discuss this exciting proposal prior to submitting a planning application to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The event will take place on:

» Tuesday 10th January 2012. 9.30am – 7.30pm

» Morrisons Supermarket, Stallings Lane

Full details, including plans and computer generated images, will be on display and representatives from Morrisons professional team will be on hand to hear your views and answer your questions.

Everyone is welcome.

Please come along to find out more and tell us what you think.

thechronicle

NEWS

in brief

TOWIE inspires Facebook page

A FACEBOOK page inspired by The Only Way is Essex (TOWIE), which sings the praises of a Black Country borough, has more than 7,500 fans.

The Only Way is Dudley was set up by Steven Edwards of Brierley Hill.

More than 3,000 fans joined in four months – and Steven is aiming for 10,000. T-shirts have been produced with the group's logo, which features Dudley Castle.

Steven, a factory loader, aged 27, said he wanted to showcase Dudley. Members post photos of their nights out and discuss what is going on in the borough. Steven's girlfriend, Rebecca Turner, 26, a budding model, has put some photos on the site to add glamour.

Fitness help is on offer for families

FAMILIES are being invited to take part in two fitness workouts being staged in Worcestershire in January. People are invited to take part in walks and cardiovascular workouts at Burlish Top, the Kingsway, Stourport, at 1pm to 1.30pm and 2pm to 2.30pm on January 15 and 22.

Free walking tour

WALKERS can discover more about Halesowen and Stourbridge during a free guided walk.

It starts from the Hub Building in Huntingtree Park at 10am on February 6. Families will be taken on a tour of the area.

Public objections prompt a rethink on gipsy site bid

FOUR of seven sites being considered for controversial gipsy and traveller pitches look set to be dropped after public objections. Wyre Forest District Council has been looking at seven potential sites in the district as part of a public consultation which has recently finished.

Lighting theft outside church

THIEVES stole floodlights from outside a Wyre Forest church during a Christmas carol service, police have revealed.

A councillor has now issued an urgent appeal for information to help catch the culprits who struck at St Peter and St Paul Church in Rock, near Bewdley over the festive period.

Three floodlights mounted on 7ft telescopic, metal stands had been placed outside to illuminate a new path which is currently being built to provide disabled access to the building.

However, when the service finished at around 5.15pm on Sunday, people walked out into darkness.

Connected

The floodlights had been stolen along with three extension leads connected to them. Church warden John Nott said that the floodlights, which were on yellow stands, had been borrowed from a parishioner and the church would now have to reimburse him.

He said: "I'm appalled that anyone would stoop so low and take these lights from the church while we were all inside enjoying the service."

"We will have to try and find some other way of lighting the path now as it could be dangerous if the weather turns icy."

Police are eager to hear from anyone who saw anyone acting suspiciously near the church.

But it has been announced the ruling Tory party has decided not to support the sites at Lea Castle Hospital in Kidderminster, Stourport Road in Bewdley, Sion Hill Middle School in Kidderminster and Manor farm in Stourport. It comes after strong opposition at a series of meetings where residents said the land was unsuitable.

Although it will be up to the full council to decide exactly which sites are included on the final list, the decision is likely to go through as the Tories are the ruling party.

Council leader John Campion said: "The people have spoken and we will act. It was right that the council put some of the sites recommended from the independent consultations out to public consultation."

Emotional

"We will now continue to work with the scrutiny process in the new year to identify how the unmet demand will now be met. It will ultimately be full council next year that will decide which sites are included but we feel it is right that we tell our community our position at this early stage."

A farmer who made an emotional plea to council bosses to rethink proposals for a travellers' site on his farm has spoken of his relief that the site now looks set to be dropped.

Tim Barnes, who works the land at Manor Farm in Stourport, feared his farm would be put in jeopardy when council bosses announced it was one of seven sites being included in a consultation to find 43 more pitches for gipsies and travellers by 2022.

Mr Barnes said: "We don't know how to feel, it is wonderful news that it looks like it is going off but we have been so distressed by it all. It seems like it has been a waste of time and they are no further forward with it. We would just like to thank anyone who supported us."

Charity worker off on travels



Jaiya Bhandari, 22, prepares for her charity trip to Peru

A DEDICATED Black Country charity worker will travel to Peru to work with disadvantaged youngsters and help construct new buildings in a shanty town.

Jaiya Bhandari, aged 22, was due to fly out to Ecuador on January 4 before travelling on to Villa Maria, outside Lima.

Over the course of a month she will work with youngsters in the town helping them to stay out of trouble during their summer holidays by providing lessons and activities. And before that she will spend three weeks learning Spanish at an intensive course in Ecuador.

As part of her work in the shanty town she will help to provide youngsters with a place to go and take them for swimming lessons which youngsters would not be able to afford otherwise.

Jaiya, of Bishops Walk, Cradley Heath, hopes to raise £700 for the trip which will help pay for materials to construct new buildings in the town and fund the activities for youngsters. She said: "It is something I have wanted to do for a long time."

The former Wolverhampton Grammar School pupil can be sponsored by logging onto www.virginmoneygiving.com/jaiyabhandari

Pictures of railway history on show

HUNDREDS of photographs from the golden age of railway travel will go on display and collectors will be able to buy prints when a museum stages an event.

Kidderminster Railway Museum will stage a photograph fair at its base, off Comberton Hill, on January 7 from 10am until 4.30pm.

Collectors will bring in their own selection of photographs and the museum will also display a selection from its own archive of more than 140,000 images. Admission to the event is free.

Other photograph fairs will be held at the venue on Easter Monday, August 11 and December 29.

Staff at the museum will also host a series of film shows during the year where images of steam engines and railway life are screened. The events are scheduled to take place on January 14 and 28, February 11 and 25, March 10 and 31 and April 14.

More events are expected to be held at the museum during the year but have still to be confirmed.

Garden plan

Retrospective plans to build in the rear garden of a property in Kingswinford have been approved.

Dudley Council has approved the scheme for the single-storey building in the grounds of Bromley House in Bromley Lane, subject to a number of conditions.

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thechronicle

Safety vow after closures of M6 fourth lane top 50

Queue to pick up penguin



Nicola Wright, from Dudley Zoo with a rare Humboldt penguin

PEOPLE have been queueing up to p-p-pick up a penguin at a Black Country tourist attraction.

Penguins are top of the adoption list at Dudley Zoo, where staff have been inundated with requests.

Dozens of adoption packs were snapped up for local animal lovers for Christmas presents.

Zoo spokesman Jill Suddock said: "Penguins are top of the list - with Bob and Lucky as the favourites for

people to adopt. We have the largest colony in the UK of endangered Humboldt penguins, with 56 birds - and people just love them to bits.

"In 2012, which is our 75th anniversary, the penguins will feature very large, as we launch our Penguin Bay walk-through attraction, where people will be able to get much closer to the birds."

Meerkats are also in great demand for adoption.

A FOURTH lane of the M6 in the West Midlands will only open when it is safe to do so, highways chiefs have said this week.

It comes after it emerged the hard shoulder between junction 10a at Essington and 8 at West Bromwich was shut to traffic on more than 50 occasions since the spring due to cable thefts, camera and signal faults. The lane was meant to cut congestion.

The main problems were between junctions 10a and 10 at Walsall which had been targeted by metal thieves. There were also problems due to a gantry sign having to be removed and replaced.

The extra lane to keep traffic flowing at busy periods was launched by the Highways Agency in March as part of a £150 million scheme. But information released under the Freedom of Information Act shows there were at least 57 times when it was unable to open. This ranged from hours to days.

It included 20 days for a gantry sign to be replaced southbound from junctions 10 to 10a between March and April, delaying the full launch of the scheme.

Cameras

There was a 10-day period in September after metal thieves stole cables, knocking out CCTV cameras and signs. Camera faults taking up to three days to repair have also been reported along with signal problems taking up to four days to put right.

Highways Agency spokeswoman Jane Manning said: "Under normal circumstances, the traffic flow on the motorway will determine whether the managed motorway with hard shoulder running comes into operation, so it may not operate every day."

"Events which have prevented the safe operation of the managed motorway during 2011 have included instances of cable theft, equipment faults, maintenance and repairs, and work on the motorway itself."

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thechronicle

Mild temperatures have garden centres blooming

UNUSUALLY mild weather has seen garden centres in the Black Country enjoy an unexpected boom in trade.

Last winter's heavy snow has been forgotten – and above-average temperatures have encouraged shoppers to flock to garden centres.

At one centre, Ashwood Nurseries in Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, manager Tony Cartwright said it had been "a great season" with around 300 people visiting every day in December.

He said there had been high demand for cyclamen and pot plants.

He said: "What a difference a year makes. We have had high numbers visiting every day, but last year was a disaster for us."

"We are located along a country lane and there was thick ice nearly every day which kept customers away. But this year the car park has been full every day."

Planting Joanne Hawkins-McDowell, manager of Shenstone Garden Centre in Birmingham Road, Shenstone, said: "We have definitely had more footfall."

"We have also sold a lot more bedding and shrubs as people have been planting more. House plant sales have been strong too."



Tim Porter, at Hollybush Nurseries, has noticed a boom in customers

Teenagers blamed for fire at house

FIREFIGHTERS had to tackle a rubbish blaze in a derelict house in Dudley for the third time in a month.

Teenagers using the empty semi in Wrens Nest Road as a drinking

den are blamed for starting the fires and Dudley fire station watch commander Russell Gauden said: "In the last three to four weeks we have been called to the property three times."

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thechronicle

Bans keep hundreds of thugs away from soccer

HUNDREDS of football thugs in the West Midlands are banned from going to matches in Europe after intelligence officers used covert cameras to record their behaviour.

by Shaun Jepson

Police in the region have successfully prosecuted 300 hooligans who caused trouble before, during and after games.

They include scores of Wolves, Villa, Albion, Birmingham and Walsall fans. Birmingham City fans have the most bans.

Blues fans top the list of shames with 82 banning orders in place - Villa fans have 61, Wolves 55, the Baggies 41 and Walsall 19. Coventry has 42.

Among those given extended banning orders this year were eight Albion thugs who clashed with Wolves supporters at the Tame Bridge pub in Great Bridge.

Glasses, stools and even beer barrels were used as missiles in a brawl following a game on February 20. Seven were jailed but all eight were given banning orders by a judge at Wolverhampton Crown Court earlier this month.

Insp Howard Lewis-Jon-

es, of West Midlands Police's football disorder unit, said: "Banning orders are a real success because they work by stopping fans from doing what they enjoy the most, which is going to football matches."

Nationally, 3,089 English and Welsh fans were arrested at international and domestic games in 2010/11, down 302 from the previous season - the lowest level since records began in 1984/5.

There were no arrests at 70 per cent of games and 92 per cent of those whose bans expired were assessed by police as no longer posing a risk.

The number of football banning orders in place in November also fell, down to 3,173 from 3,248 last year.

There were 105 against Chelsea fans, 101 against Manchester United fans, and 98 against Newcastle United fans.

Book quiz champs



The winning team of Kirsty Fraser, aged 10, Rhona Fraser, 10, Emelia Reynolds, 10, Jessica Hill, 10, Aaron Byrne, nine, Elle Pope, nine, and Emma Kindon, 10

YOUNG bookworms at a Stourbridge school have been celebrating after becoming quiz champions.

The pupils from The Ridge Primary School in Wollaston took part in the Dudley Book Quiz, organised by the borough's school library service.

The winning team, made up of pupils from Years 5 and 6, were awarded a shield in honour of their victory and each member was given a medal.

Headteacher Deb Hudson said: "We are incredibly proud of the hard work that the children put in."

Centre work moves closer

PLANNING obligations for a new supermarket in Stourbridge have been met, bringing the start of work on the £50million development closer.

Tesco is planning to revamp the Crown Shopping Centre in the town as part of the development. Dudley Council chiefs have agreed on number of planning issues. As part of the scheme the Bell Street car park will be demolished.

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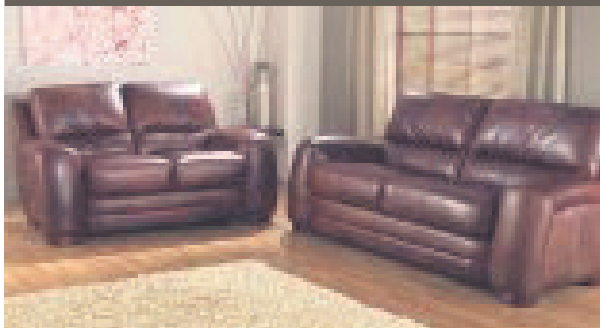
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NEWS
in brief

Top youth book vote a success

MORE than 600 young people have helped put together the shortlist for Worcestershire's teen book award.

The youngsters from 14 schools across the county took part in a Worcestershire County Council-led 'speed-read' roadshow.

Teams from the council's libraries and learning department visited schools across the county armed with books.

Pupils had less than a minute with each book before they voted for their favourite. The winning book will be announced in March.

Band's monthly bid for hit single

A MIDLAND indie band is releasing a song every month next year in a bid to have their first hit single.

The Amateurs, from Kidderminster, have spent recent months in the studio recording new material.

After performing to 1,000 people at Artsfest in Birmingham in September the group are also planning a series of gigs for early next year. For a preview of their first track *We Get Out*, visit www.theamateurs.co.uk

Blueprint for town

A BLUEPRINT to help shape the future of Stourbridge town centre is due to be put out to public consultation by spring. The Area Action Plan will be discussed in March.

Plan for quarry likely to go ahead in face of objections

CONTROVERSIAL plans for the next stage of development at a quarry in Kingswinford have been recommended for approval, despite objections from residents and councillors.

Plans to change the access to Ketley Quarry are among a host of applications submitted by site operators WCL Quarries Ltd.

The latest plans focus on updates for site offices, the weighbridge, new security fencing, increasing car parking and opening up the use of the Dudley Road entrance.

Some 25 people have objected to the partly-retrospective application.

But council planning officers have recommended members of Dudley Council's development control committee approve the scheme when they meet on January 9. Levels of noise and dust have increased at the site, according to objectors.

They claim mud and debris is being brought on to Dudley Road by up to 200 lorries driving on and off the site per day. Objectors also

claim there are insufficient spaces for lorries to park on the site and are concerned about air quality.

In a letter to the council, David Williams says he has lived in nearby Ploverdale Crescent for 10 years and is "horrified" by the plans.

"The proposed WCL business model is totally unsuited to the location as it will create significant dust, noise, congestion, road safety risks and blight the lives of all those people who live in close proximity for years and years to come," he said.

Ward councillor Petter Miller submitted written objections.

But a report to the committee says officers are satisfied the quarry operators are following rules set out for the site in 1997.



Students Ben Foster and Ashleigh Duckett, view work produced by up to 600 students during The Big Draw, currently on show at Dudley College

Project draws in visitors

ARTY students at Dudley College got the chance to think big for their latest exhibition.

The display was inspired by a project called the Big Draw which took place at the college in October and featured 600 students.

Sections of the giant canvass which were laid out on the floor for people to draw on have been used by fashion, graphic, photographic, media and art students to produce the display of creative canvasses, films and fashion show pieces for the Epic Draw exhibition.

And also included in the latest exhibition is a film produced by the media students which records the day of the Big Draw and some of the original canvass, covered in doodles from the hundreds of visitors on the day. The display is in the Cube gallery at the college which has a second tier designed to display large sculptures and canvases.

MP backs school's academy proposal

A BLACK COUNTRY MP has voiced his support for a school's plans to become an academy that have proved controversial among teachers and parents.

More than 30 teachers went on strike at The Kingswinford School last month, saying governors had not consulted properly over the plans.

The school was set to become an academy on January 1, despite the recent protests.

The National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers handed parents a letter saying: "Becoming an academy is risky."

"The school believes it can make a short-term financial gain but it will be left with long-term risks."

"As an academy, the school could be taken over in the future. Many people in the community, including teachers and parents, want to keep the school as part of the Dudley family of schools, rather than see it go it alone."

But Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, said: "I welcome the decision to apply for academy status and am delighted that the Secretary of State has approved the application. As a result of the Coalition Government's Academies Act 2010, academies now benefit from even greater freedoms to innovate and raise standards."

DAVID ALEXANDER

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CLUB NEWS

thechronicle

Julie's talk on efforts of charity

W'TON SOROPTIMISTS

CLUB members welcomed Julie Flavell to a recent meeting.

Julie spoke on the charity Welcome St George's and how it aims to raise awareness of the plight of thousands of people living in the garbage villages around Cairo and raising funds to do something about it.

There are currently 26,000 people living in one village called Mottamodiah which Julie says is about the size of Bilbrook and Codsall put together. Members were shown pictures of the conditions in which these people live, and tried to imagine themselves existing among piles of rubbish.

The families collect 60 per cent of Cairo's rubbish and take it back to the village where the women and children sort through it to salvage what they can make use of, or re-cycle to raise money to live. The rubbish is then burned and Julie said that the atmosphere and smell of the burning rubbish is horrendous.

For the past 10 years or so funds have been raised to build classrooms, provide teaching equipment, install a computer room and build modern, hygienic toilet and wash facilities within St George's Church, the Coptic Christian Church which is spearheading this work with the families and children.

Members were very moved by the plight of these families and had much praise for Julie and the people associated with the essential work they do.

Keith's in the frame with his star quality



From Left: Kidderminster joint president Stephanie Ainsley, speaker Keith Turley, Councillor Anne Hingley, Mayor of Kidderminster; Midlands region president Ruth Longville, Stourbridge president Ann Middleton; Kidderminster joint presidents Shirley Bonas and Denise Carson and West Birmingham president Mary McCurry

THE club's November speaker was Keith Turley who talked on his work painting portraits of entertainers and comedians.

Keith recounted the occasions he mixed with the stars including Tony Hancock, Norman Wisdom, Les Dawson, Leslie Phillips, Frankie Howerd, The Goons, Morecombe & Wise to name a few.

Kidderminster Club members welcomed as guests Councillor Anne Hingley, Mayor of Kidderminster, Ruth Longville, Soroptimist Midlands regional president and presidents of Stourbridge and West Birmingham Clubs,

KIDDERMINSTER SOROPTIMISTS

Ann Middleton and Mary McCurry together with members from their clubs.

The next speaker meeting will be on January 19 when joint president Stephanie Ainsley will welcome Hannah Escott who will be recounting her experiences as a Fulbright Scholar. For details call Elke Jury on 01299 266101.

Bells ring out for Christmas

KINGSWIN-FORD TG

THE guild was in festive mood at the December meeting. Members were informed that sub sections will resume in the new year and ladies in the luncheon club will gather at The Harvester. Two visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

After business was concluded, Kingswinford hand bell ringers entertained with seasonal music and everyone was encouraged to sing along. Some tried their hand at ringing with varying success.

Instead of a floral decoration, Margaret Farmer provided a nativity scene which she had knitted, and was greatly admired.

Kath Turner was presented with the ceramic bowl which was designed at an earlier meeting.

Raffle prizes were won by Frankie Baker, Kath

Turner, Josie Smith, Sandra Grey and Lisa Wharton, one of the visitors.

A box was put out so that those who preferred to donate to charity instead of giving cards could do so.

In January, the Wednesday Club will hold a fish and chip supper. On January 9 the guild meeting will be a social evening - an ideal time for potential new members to visit the guild at the community centre in the high street.

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JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378481

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373013

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy arbut beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375139

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368889

SARAH 52, fun loving, affectionate, outgoing, likes pubs, meals out, walks, holidays, seeks kind, romantic, loving man. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382359

CLARE 25yr old single mum looking for fun times, I have red/blonde hair, blue eyes and am up for lots of fun. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382211

LAURA slim green eyed 25yr old female looking for good times only. Any age/status. Must be adventurous and confident. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382209

JEAN 5ft slim, busy blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTm down to earth male for adult company. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382207

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382205

STACEY young sensual 20yr old looking for fun times. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382091

MICHELLE blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382089

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382087

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327579

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WLTm male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376565

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379535

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378507

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364311

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363277

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376569

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370017

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386119

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTm understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375141

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370023

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375111

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375711

SFT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-50. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382099

ATTRACTIVE 45yr old female, seeks genuine, attractive male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388550

SASHA attractive curvaceous brunette, energetic, loving, professional seeks well balanced appreciative male for relationship. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381735

SUE 45yr old slim attractive blonde, loves working out, cooking, meals out, animals, looking for romance and good times with appreciative male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381711

OLIVIA green eyed slim brunette seeking understanding male for mutual companionship and nice times. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381707

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375825

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378463

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely, WLTm nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370111

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591

LOUISA looking for lovely, young male, 20-30's, easygoing for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380469

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360317

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375929

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376801

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378209

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387295

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376165

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376115

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 323319

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374773

ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378485

JEAN 71, fun loving Shropshire lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373657

FARMER'S grandaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387204

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371127

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363428

TRACY attractive young blonde with great figure, likes nights in/out, looking for stimulating male for interesting meets. N/S. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380389

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377513

GORGEOUS 26yr old independent female with lots to offer to the right person, seeks similar. Willing to travel. Any age/status welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 358141

RACHAEL 49yrs young slim, caring, sincere and fun loving, WLTm similar male with GSOH for mutual companionship, perhaps more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381343

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368528

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun with older male for romantic nights in and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381341

SHARON 37, social, WLTm male who likes good conversation, theatre, keeping fit and most of all who will appreciate a real woman. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381345



CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTm very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 357985

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 357751

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 180587

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 356761

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTm nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380851

SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369295

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368429

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 362033

RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 366755

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 304135

WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 362993

DIY gardening, friendly geek required by friendly 55yr old attractive teacher, soulful lady to share sunny days and starlit nights in my hilltop cottage garden. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 365137

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384852

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359351

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 301001

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339275

PRINCE wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs, I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 337465

GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327465

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380918

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 338315

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 334627

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MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOH, seeks lady for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376921

MARK single dad, seeking female for nights in/out, possible relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381773

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370649

KEVIN 44, divorced, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, easygoing, down to earth, likes meals out, cinema, seeks N/S female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372207

DANIEL 49, tall, attractive, GSOH, seeks lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382559

BILLY 50, black, Christian, 5ft 5ins, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine, Christian lady. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382425

FUN loving professional male, 37, seeks female for company, nights in/out, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382417

62YR old male, divorced, medium build, dark hair, GSOH, enjoys music, sport, gardening, socialising, seeks local lady for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382401

KEVIN solvent, 6ft 2ins, athletic, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382385

JOE seeking fun, sexy girl in similar area. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382345

PAUL OHAC, N/S, divorced, average guy, sociable, tactile, likes most things, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382335

62YR old honest, caring gent, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 357121

LOVING caring 63yr old widower, seeks lady for caring relationship and to share the good things in life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379341

MALE likes walks, talks, cooking, theatre, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381771

JEFF slim, fit, active, 60, open-minded, seeks attractive lady, 40-60 for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379997

54YR old divorced male, OHAC, seeks female under 50 for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379729

ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite, respectful with GSOH, seeks female for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371823

JOHN 48, 5ft 10ins, warm, intelligent, hardworking, unconventional, unpretentious, seeks sensitive, intelligent lady. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388412

TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, WLTm attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55, size unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 346611

HELP help, help! Inexperienced CD, 52, seeks understanding female for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 226021

DAVE 44 slim, good looking, N/S, 5ft 9ins, no ties, WLTm slim, attractive, fun loving girl for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381547

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTm West Midlands lady for regular mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374821

BRIAN 60, single, 5ft 10ins, medium build, down to earth, seeks genuine lady friend who is romantic. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372181

ALAN young 62, N/S, slim, solvent, successful, OHAC, WLTm sensitive, caring female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380651

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372407

ATHLETIC good looking 31yr old male, seeks slim, attractive female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370821

ALAN young 60, N/S, slim, OHAC, solvent, successful, 6



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6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Great Edinburgh Cross Country 2012. Coverage of the annual event at Holyrood Park. **2.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The opening day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Winter Wipeout.

6.35 **The Magicians.** New series. Darren McMullen presents the magic contest in a new live format, which sees internationally renowned acts team up with celebrities to prove who is the best.

7.50 **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** New series. Game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Presented by Nick Knowles.

8.40 **Casualty.** The refurbished ED opens for the first time since the fire, and the staff are stretched to their limits by a traffic accident and a poisonous gas leak.

10.00 **BBC News; Weather:** National Lottery Update.

10.20 **FILM: Die Hard with a Vengeance.** (1995) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis.

12.20 **Film: AWOL: Absent Without Leave.** (1990) Action adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. **2.00** Weatherview. **2.05** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** **Film: Nobody Runs Forever.** (1968) **1.40** **Film: Duel in the Sun.** (1946) Western, starring Gregory Peck. **3.45** **Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.30** **Live Darts: BDO World Championships.** Further coverage of the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club. **5.35** **Film: Jason and the Argonauts.** (1963) Fantasy, starring Todd Armstrong.

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7.15 **Flog It!** Making money at an Oxford auction. (R)

7.45 **John Howard Davies: A Life in Comedy.** Tribute to the TV producer and director.

8.00 **The Good Life.** The Goods earn extra money. (R)

8.30 **Steproe and Son.** Guest starring Leonard Rossiter. (R)

9.00 **Fawlty Towers.** Basil decides to enhance the hotel's reputation with an exclusive night of gourmet cuisine. Unfortunately, his new chef takes too much of a shine to Manuel. (R)

9.30 **Comedy Connections.** The story of Monty Python. (R)

10.00 **Big Hits: TOTP 1964 to 1975.** With the Rolling Stones, Peter Sarstedt, Stevie Wonder and Julie Driscoll. (R)

11.30 **Darts: BDO World Championships.**

12.20 **Darts Extra.** **2.20** **Film: Devils of Darkness.** (1965) Horror, with William Sylvester. **3.45** **Close.**

6.00 **CITV: Mini CITV.** **7.25** **CITV. 9.25** **ITV News; Weather.** **9.30** **Film: The Perfect Man.** (2005) Romantic comedy, with Hilary Duff and Heather Locklear. **11.25** **This Morning: Saturday.** **12.25** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **1.25** **ITV News; Weather.** **1.45** **Film: Catwoman.** (2004) Superhero adventure, starring Halle Berry. **3.40** **Film: Jurassic Park.** (1993) Action adventure, starring Sam Neill.

6.00 **Regional Programmes.** **6.15** **ITV News; Weather.**

6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Featuring a dog with a light sabre.

7.00 **Harry Hill's TV Burp.** More of the show's funniest moments.

7.30 **Take Me Out.** New series. Dating game, hosted by Paddy McGuinness.

8.30 **The Talent Show Story.** New series. Exploring the history of televised talent contests.

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9.30 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** New series. With comedian John Bishop, physicist Brian Cox and singer Lana Del Rey.

10.30 **ITV News; Weather.**

10.45 **Celebrity Juice.** With guests Ant and Dec and Professor Green.

11.30 **FA Cup Football Highlights.**

1.00 **The Zone;** **ITV News** Headlines. **3.00** **In Plain Sight.** **3.50** **ITV News; Weather.** **5.30** **ITV Morning News.**

6.00 **The Treacle People.** (R) **6.10** **The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35** **The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00** **The Grid.** (R) **7.25** **GT Academy.** **7.55** **The Morning Line.** **8.55** **T4: Hollyoaks Best Bits 2011.** **10.00** **T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.25** **T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.55** **T4: The Simpsons.** (R) **11.30** **T4: New Girl.** (R) **12.10** **Film: T4: California Man.** (1992) Teen comedy, starring Brendan Fraser. **1.55** **Channel 4 Racing.** **4.00** **Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.** (R) **4.30** **Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.** (R) **5.00** **Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.** (R) **5.35** **Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.** (R)

6.05 **Channel 4 News.** **6.35** **4thought.tv.** **6.40** **FILM: Big Momma's House 2.** (2006) Comedy sequel, starring Martin Lawrence, Nia Long and Emily Procter.

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8.30 **The Bank Job.** Final of the game show, presented by George Lamb. Last in the series.

10.00 **FILM: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story.** (2004) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller.

11.50 **FILM: LA Confidential.** (1997) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe.

2.15 **A Ninja Is for Life.** Not Just for Christmas. (R) **2.25** **Emily's Song.** (R) **2.40** **St Elsewhere.** (R) **3.25** **Britain BC.** (R) **4.25** **Hugh's Fish Fight: The Battle Continues.** (R) **5.20** **Brothers & Sisters.** (R)

6.00 **Milkshake!** **10.00** **Meerkat Manor.** (R) **10.30** **The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **11.30** **Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **12.30** **Film: The Slipper and the Rose.** (1976) Musical version of Cinderella, with Gemma Craven. **3.10** **Film: From Here to Eternity.** (1953) Second World War drama, starring Burt Lancaster. **5.30** **Film: While You Were Sleeping.** (1995) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman.

7.30 **5 News Weekend.** **7.35** **NCSI.** Gibbs discovers a link between the murder of a petty officer and the break-up of his team, leading him and new director Leon Vance to unravel the mystery. (R)

8.30 **Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the new housemates' first full day at the mercy of Big Brother, revealing who is playing up for the benefit of the cameras and who is taking a more laid-back approach.

9.45 **FILM: Philadelphia.** (1993) A gay lawyer with AIDS turns to a former courtroom rival to prove his ex-employers have discriminated against him. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Tom Hanks, with Denzel Washington and Antonio Banderas.

12.05 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **4.00** **Great Artists.** Peter Paul Rubens. (R) **4.25** **Divine Designs.** Two notable Victorian architects. (R) **4.50** **County Secrets.** (R) **5.00** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.10** **The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.35** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.45** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

ITV2 **3.00** **Westlife: For the Last Time** **4.00** **Harry Hill's TV Burp** **4.30** **The Cube** **5.30** **All Star Family Fortunes** **6.30** **Film: About a Boy** (2002) **8.30** **Take Me Out - The Gossip** **9.15** **Film: Bridget Jones's Diary** (2001) **11.20** **Film: Ocean's Twelve** (2004)

ITV3 **2.45** **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **4.55** **A Touch of Frost** **7.00** **Rosemary & Thyme** **8.00** **Doc Martin** **9.00** **Foyle's War** **11.05** **Film: Sophie's Choice** (1982)

ITV4 **2.10** **Film: Morning Departure** (1950) **4.15** **Film: Dunkirk** (1958) **7.00** **The Sweeney** **8.00** **Minder.** Arthur and Ray take to the water. **9.00** **Film: Fire Down Below** (1997) **11.10** **Film: Nighthawks** (1981)

BBC THREE **7.00** **Shorlock** **8.30** **Top Gear: India Special** **10.05** **Most Annoying People of 2011** **11.00** **Family Guy** **11.50** **American Dad!**

BBC FOUR **7.00** **Serengeti: Unnatural Histories** **8.00** **Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity** **9.00** **Borgen** **11.00** **Timeshift: The Smoking Years**

E4 **1.25** **Hollyoaks** **4.00** **Desperate Scousewives** **5.00** **Scrubs** **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **Happy Endings** **7.30** **How I Met Your Mother** **8.00** **Rules of Engagement** **8.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **9.00** **Film: Cruel Intentions** (1999) **11.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **11.55** **The Cleveland Show**

FILM4 **2.55** **Batman** (1966) **5.00** **Hocus Pocus** (1993) **6.50** **Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian** (2009) **9.00** **Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (2009) The shape-changing robots fight for control of a planet-destroying machine hidden somewhere on Earth. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf. **11.45** **Wolf Creek** (2005)



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6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.05** EastEnders. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** The Royal Bodyguard. (R) **4.30** The Royal Bodyguard. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind.

6.05 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker unveils a new land art installation on the

Wolds Way in East

Yorkshire, while Ellie

Harrison visits David

Hockney at his home

and John Craven talks

to David Cameron.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow.

Fiona Bruce and the

experts examine

valuable and rarities at

Hardland Abbey in

Devon, including the

notebooks of a plane-

spotter who may have

witnessed Glenn

Miller's last flight.

8.30 Sherlock. Holmes and

Watson head to the

country to

investigate the peculiar

case of a monstrous

hound stalking the wilds

of Dartmoor.

10.00 BBC News: Regional

News; Weather.

10.25 The One Lenny Henry.

The comedian presents

a mixture of stand-up

and sketches. (R)

11.05 FILM: Grumpy Old

Men. (1993) Comedy,

starring Jack Lemmon.

12.45 The Sky at Night. **1.05**

Weatherview. **1.10** Sign Zone:

Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Holby City.

(R) **3.10** Hairy Bikers' Best of

British. (R) **3.55** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Film: One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing. (1975) **1.00** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **4.45** Ski Sunday. **5.30** Flog It!

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6.00 How to Build a Nuclear

Submarine.

Documentary exploring

three British

engineering companies,

beginning with the

construction of HMS

Astute, the Royal

Navy's biggest attack

submarine, at a cost

exceeding £1 billion. (R)

7.00 Top Gear. Jeremy

Clarkson tests the

Renaultsport Twingo

133 in Belfast, Richard

Hammond tries his

hand at airport vehicle

racing, and Guy Ritchie

is the Star in a

Reasonably Priced Car.

8.00 Great Barrier Reef.

Monty Halls explores

the extraordinary

underwater ecosystem.

9.00 To Boldly Go - Down.

Part one of two. How

mankind survives

underwater.

10.00 FILM: Adventureland.

(2009) Premiere. Teen

comedy, starring Jesse

Eisenberg.

11.40 Darts: BDO World

Championships.

Highlights from the

second day at the

Lakeside Country Club.

12.30 Darts Extra. **2.30** BBC News.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News: Weather. **9.30** FA Cup Football Highlights. (R) **11.00** Dancing on Ice Live Tour 2011. (R) **12.00** ITV News: Weather. **12.05** You've Been Framed! (R) **12.30** Live FA Cup Football. Manchester City v Manchester United (Kick-off 1.00pm) and Peterborough United v Sunderland (Kick-off 3.30pm).

6.00 Regional Programmes.

6.15 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 Dancing on Ice. New

series. The competition

returns with a new-look

judging panel.

8.30 Wild at Heart. New

series. A confrontation

with Peeters pushes

Danny to breaking

point.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The

Skate Off. The two least

popular celebrities have

to skate again.

10.00 That Sunday Night

Show.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 FA Cup Football

Highlights. Action from

four matches in the third

round of the

competition.

11.45 Premiership Rugby

Union.

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12.45 The Zone; ITV News

Headlines. **2.05** Ladette to

Lady: Australia. Eight

brash Australians

visit Teesdale's Eggleston

Hall to learn about

etiquette, but reports

of unruly antics on the

flight give the

tutors a taste of what

lies ahead. (R) **3.00** ITV

Nightscreen.

5.30 ITV Morning News.

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** The Hoobs. (R) **6.55** Freeports on 4. **7.20** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.45** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **8.40** T4: Hollyoaks. (R) **11.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** T4: Shipwrecked: The Island. **12.50** Film: T4: Ever After: A Cinderella Story. (1998) Romantic drama, starring Drew Barrymore and Dougray Scott. **3.10** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **3.40** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** 4thought.tv. **5.50** Film: The Devil Wears Prada. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep.

8.00 The Hotel. Mark decides to entertain his guests with a party night.

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9.00 FILM: (500) Days of

Summer. (2009)

Premiere. A man looks

back on his brief

relationship with the

woman he loves,

remembering events in

a random order.

Romantic comedy, with

Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

10.50 FILM: Employee of the

Month. (2006) Comedy,

starring Dane Cook and

Dax Shepard.

12.50 Comic's Choice: Jessica

Hynes. (R) **1.45** Reasons to Be

Cheerful: Hallo Friend. (R) **2.00**

The Pawn King. (R) **2.30** Secret

History: Sex and the Swastika.

(R) **3.25** Monte Cassino: The

Soldiers' Story. (R) **4.25** This Is

Me. (R) **4.30** St Elsewhere. (R)

5.20 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowercots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igan Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **7.30** Mio Mao. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.20** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.35** Angelina Ballerina. **8.50** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.15** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.45** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.45** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.55** Film: Return to Oz. (1985) **3.00** Film: Candleshoe. (1977) **5.00** 5 News Weekend. **5.05** Film: Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes. (1984) Drama, starring Christopher Lambert.

7.40 FILM: SWAT. (2003) A

disgraced cop redeems

himself by joining an

elite unit charged with

guarding a notorious

prisoner. Action thriller,

with Samuel L. Jackson.

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother.

All the action from the

star-studded compound.

11.00 FILM: Reservoir Dogs.

(1992) Thriller, starring

Harvey Keitel.

1.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Animal

Rescue Squad. (R) **4.15** Great

Scientists. (R) **4.35** Divine

Designs. (R) **5.00** Han's

Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake!

Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas &

Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the

Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
3.00 I'm a Celebrity: Best Trials Ever **4.00** I'm a Celebrity: Jungle Gold **5.00** You've Been Framed: Top 100 Animals **6.00** Film: Casper (1995) **8.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **10.00** Film: The Bodyguard (1992)

ITV3

3.50 Foyle's War **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot

9.00 Lewis. A student Shakespeare production

ends in murder. **11.00** Cracker

ITV4

2.40 Film: Dunkirk (1958) **5.25** Film: The Dam

Busters (1954) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union

9.00 Film: The Keeper (2009) Action thriller,

starring Steven Seagal. **11.00** Film: Play Misty

for Me (1971)

BBC THREE

7.00 Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince

Caspian (2008) **9.15** Live at the Apollo **10.00**

American Dad! **10.45** Family Guy **11.35** Film:

Donnie Darko (2001)

BBC FOUR

7.00 A Little Later **7.15** The Story of Musicals

8.15 Film: Kiss Me Kate (1953) **10.00** Sings the

Great American Songbook **11.00** The Story of

Musicals

E4

3.40 Being Erica **4.35** Samantha Who? **5.05**

Film: Alaska (1996) **7.10** 90210 **8.05** Film: Mean

Girls (2004) **10.00** Desperate Housewives

11.00 Rhod Gilbert & the Cat That Looked Like

Nicholas Lyndhurst

FILM4

3.15 Avalanche Express (1979) **5.00** King

Solomon's Mines (1950) **7.05** Turner & Hooch

(1989) A cop investigating a murder has only

one witness to help him solve the case - the

victim's dog. Family comedy, starring Tom

Hanks. **9.00** Along Came a Spider (2001) A

police psychologist goes in search of a

senator's daughter who has been kidnapped

by a psychotic teacher. Thriller prequel, with

Morgan Freeman. **11.05** The 51st State (2001)



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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.58 BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scoundrels. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes. 12.13 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out: BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 The One Jasper Carroll. 9.00 The Royal Bodyguard. 9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. 11.20 Would I Lie to You? (R). 11.50 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.35 Weatherview. 12.40 Sign Zone: Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 1.40 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) 2.25 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 2.55 Natural World: Animal House. (R) 3.55 You've Been Scammed. (R) 4.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Real Rescues. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. A Question of Taste. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 An Island Parish. 9.00 The Hunt for the Higgs: A Horizon Special. 10.00 Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.00 American Football: Play-off Highlights. 1.10 Darts Extra. 3.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 2.59 Regional Weather. 3.00 Lewis. (R) 3.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Silent Scream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 FA Cup Football Highlights. 11.05 The Sunday Night Takeaway. 11.30 Newsnight. (R) 12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.55 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 3.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 4.00 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sali Mali. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 According to Jim. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Undercover Boss Australia. 10.25 Vacation, Vacation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Celebrity Five Go To. 1.05 Channel 4 Presents: Jonnie Peacock. (R) 1.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.30 Film: The Badlanders. (1958) Western, starring Ernest Borgnine and Alan Ladd. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Great Train Robbery's Missing Mastermind? Random Acts. 12.20 POKER. 1.15 KOTV: Boxing Weekly. 1.40 Beach Volleyball. 2.35 The Grid. 3.00 GT Academy. (R) 3.30 Freezones on 4. (R) 3.55 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Kickboxing. (R) 4.05 Scrapheap Challenge. (R) 5.00 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Ma Bar. (R) 5.10 Ultra Running. (R) 5.20 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 2.15 Law & Order. (R) 3.15 Film: The Holy Grail. (2001) Drama. 4.15 News at 5. 5.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 World's Toughest Truck: (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show. 5 News Update. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. 10.00 When Paddy Met Sally. 11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.00 Celebrity Big Brother: Jamie Meets the Celebs. 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 4.15 Grey's Anatomy. 5.00 Country Secrets. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.58 BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scoundrels. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes. 12.13 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. Topical stories, hosted by Alex Jones and Matt Baker. 7.30 EastEnders. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather; National Lottery Update. 10.35 Burglar in the House. 11.25 The League Cup Show. 11.55 Film: Human Traffic. (1999) British comedy drama, starring John Simm. 1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: Frozen Planet. (R) 2.35 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 3.35 You've Been Scammed. (R) 4.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Real Rescues. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. The produce of seas and rivers. (R) 8.00 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. 9.00 The Mystery of Edwin Drood. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.00 Darts Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 2.59 Regional Weather. 3.00 Lewis. (R) 3.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 River Monsters. 8.00 The Exit List. 9.00 The Biggest Loser. The teams face their second challenge. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: The Grudge. (2004) Horror remake, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. 12.20 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.40 Newsnight. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 Film: Jordan News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 According to Jim. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Undercover Boss Australia. 10.25 Vacation, Vacation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Celebrity Five Go To. 1.05 Channel 4 Presents: Jonnie Peacock. (R) 1.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.30 Film: The Badlanders. (1958) Western, starring Ernest Borgnine and Alan Ladd. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Fat Fighters. 9.00 Rogue Baboon: An Inside Nature's Giants Special. 10.00 Shameless. 11.15 Desperate Housewives. 12.15 Random Acts. 12.20 POKER. 1.15 KOTV: Boxing Weekly. 1.40 Beach Volleyball. 2.35 The Grid. 3.00 GT Academy. (R) 3.30 Freezones on 4. (R) 3.55 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Kickboxing. (R) 4.05 Scrapheap Challenge. (R) 5.00 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Ma Bar. (R) 5.10 Ultra Running. (R) 5.20 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 2.15 Law & Order. (R) 3.15 Film: McBride. Dogged. (2007) Mystery, starring John Larroquette. 5.00 5 News at 5.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 8.00 News Cowboy Builders. 9 News at 9. 9.00 Body of Proof. 10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. 11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.00 When Paddy Met Sally. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.58 BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scoundrels. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes. 12.13 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Live League Cup Football. Manchester City v Liverpool (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Freddie Flintoff: Hidden Side of Sport: National Lottery Update. 11.35 Film 2012 with Claudia Winkelman. 12.15 Film: Their Eyes Were Watching God. (2005) Period drama, starring Halle Berry. 2.05 Weatherview. 2.10 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 3.05 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 4.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Real Rescues. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) 8.00 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. 9.00 The Mystery of Edwin Drood. 10.00 Mock the West. Again. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.00 Darts Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 2.59 Regional Weather. 3.00 Lewis. (R) 3.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Unforgettable Leslie. 8.00 The Simpsons. (R) 8.30 News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Payback. (1999) Thriller, starring Mel Gibson. 12.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Film: Outland. (1981) Sci-Fi thriller, starring Kevin Costner. 4.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.05 Sali Mali. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 According to Jim. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Undercover Boss Australia. 10.25 Vacation, Vacation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Celebrity Five Go To. 1.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.10 Merrill's Marauders. (1962) Fact-based Second World War adventure, starring Jeff Chandler. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 How to Cook Like Heston. 8.00 The Fabulous Baker Brothers. 9.00 One Born Every Minute. 10.00 How to be a Good Mum with Sharon Horgan. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 London's Burning. (R) 12.15 Music on 4: Launched at Red Bull Studios. 12.50 Music on 4: The Maccabees. 360 Sessions. 1.15 Coming Up: Micah. (R) 1.40 Film: Breakfast on Pluto. (2005) 3.50 The Great British Property Scandal. (R) 4.45 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 2.15 Law & Order. (R) 3.15 Film: McBride. Dogged. (2007) Mystery, starring John Larroquette. 5.00 5 News at 5.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 8.00 News Cowboy Builders. 9 News at 9. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. 10.00 Kym Marsh: Teen Mums and Me. 11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.00 POKER: The Big Game. 1.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.58 BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scoundrels. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes. 12.13 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. Topical stories, hosted by Alex Jones and Matt Baker. 7.30 EastEnders. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Earthlight. A bird's-eye view of Europe. 9.00 News Tracks. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week: Weather. 12.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.25 Britain's Hidden Heritage. (R) 2.25 James May's Man Lab. (R) 3.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Real Rescues. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. The duo explore the history of puddings and pies. (R) 8.00 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. Anita Rani, Pearl Lowe, Alex Deakin and Alex Langlands compete. 9.00 Unfinished. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.00 Darts Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 2.59 Regional Weather. 3.00 Lewis. (R) 3.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. Debbie Meets Andy at a hotel and tries to seduce him. 7.30 Payback. Time. Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Eternal Law. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Jonathan Ross Show. (R) 11.35 Make Me Laugh. (R) 12.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: The Night. (R) 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 According to Jim. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Undercover Boss Australia. 10.25 Vacation, Vacation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Celebrity Five Go To. 1.05 Channel 4 Presents: Stephen Miller. (2012) (R) 1.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.20 Film: Went the Day Well? (1942) Second World War drama, starring Leslie Banks. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Location, Location, Location. 9.00 The Restoration. 10.00 My Daughter the Teenage Nudist. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 Coppers. (R) 12.15 Music on 4: Curated by Lyle and Scott. 12.50 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 1.25 Undressing My Mother. (R) 1.30 Britain's Greatest Codebreaker. (R) 2.40 The Great British Property Scandal. (R) 3.35 Whatever Turns You On. (R) 3.40 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.25 Countdown. 5.55 Sali Mali. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 2.15 Law & Order. (R) 3.15 Film: Surrender. Dorothy. (2006) Drama, starring Diane Keaton. 5.00 5 News at 5.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 8.00 News Update. 8.00 World's Scariest Plane Landings. 9 News at 9. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. 10.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 11.00 It's A Boy. 12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.58 BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scoundrels. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes. 12.13 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.40 Fake Britain. 9.00 Hustle. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: The Brothers Grimm. (2005) Period fantasy adventure, starring Heath Ledger and Matt Damon. 12.00 Weatherview. 1.25 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.25 James May's Man Lab. (R) 3.25 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Real Rescues. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Great Barrier Reef. Monty Halls explores the extraordinary underwater ecosystem. (R) 8.00 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. 9.00 Sicily Unpacked. 10.00 QI. (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 Weather. 11.05 Darts: BDO World Championships. 11.55 Darts Extra. 1.55 BBC News. 4.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 2.59 Regional Weather. 3.00 Lewis. (R) 3.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Law & Order: UK. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: True Crime. (1999) Crime thriller, starring Clint Eastwood. 12.55 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.55 Film: New York Minute. (2004) Family comedy, starring Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 According to Jim. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Undercover Boss Australia. 10.25 Vacation, Vacation. (R) 11.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Celebrity Five Go To. 1.10 Channel 4 Presents: Nathan Stephens' True Grit. (R) 1.15 Film: I Was Monty's Double. (1958) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring ME Clifton-James. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 7.55 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. 8.30 New Girl. Jess visits her ex-boyfriend. 9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. 10.30 Milton Jones's House of Rooms. 11.00 Rude Tube: Mashed in Mixed. (R) 12.05 Film: Candyman: Farewell to the Flesh. (1995) Horror sequel, starring Tony Todd. 1.45 Random Acts. 1.50 My Name is Earl. (R) 2.35 Hung. (R) 3.05 Dogs of Mercy. (R) 3.30 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.20 Phil's Empty Homes Giveaway. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 1.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 2.15 Law & Order. (R) 3.15 Film: The Last Chance. (2006) Drama. 4.15 News at 5. 5.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 World's Scariest Plane Landings. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Toughest Truck: 5 News at 9. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. Brian Dowling chats to another evicted housemate. 10.00 Celebrity Wedding Planner. 11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Motorsport Mundial. 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)

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Meeting the team at the new development

BARRATT West Midlands is delighted to invite homebuyers to come and meet the brand new team at the company's Willis Place development in Worcester.

Barratt West Midlands sales director Graydon Worthing said "Buying a home is generally one of the biggest investments anyone can make in their lifetime, so it is crucial you are confident in the team you are buying from."

"That's why we are inviting homebuyers to find out more about the people working at Willis Place."

"It's a unique development that has a real community feel and we have a terrific team there."

Visitors to the sales office will be greeted by Willis Place's helpful sales advisers Jo Flavell and Jill Griffiths, who are on hand to guide pur-

chasers through their move. Jo, 32, has worked in the hospitality trade before and loves meeting new people "Willis Place is a brand new Barratt development in Worcester and it's great to see how the buildings are being brought to life."

"We are very much focused on the community here at Willis Place and the communal areas on site are looking great, a lot of time is being spent on them."

"I've always been interested in homes and new builds, and now I can make sure that people find their dream home. It's great that we can offer people different schemes to be able to buy their dream home and I've noticed that FirstBuy is very popular."

Jill, 51, lives in a village to the north of Worcester with her husband and their 18 year old son and has worked as an estate agent before.

"I like helping customers choose the property that is right for them and guiding them through

the buying process. It's nice because I can work with them from their first visit right through to the day when they move into their new home."

"Working at Willis Place is great because it's situated in such a lovely part of Worcester. The development is opposite the golf and country club and Worcester is a buzzing university and cathedral city that has lots to offer such as great shops, restaurants and sporting facilities."

Started

Also on site at Willis Place is Site Manager Rob Gray, 37, from Coventry who has been with Barratt for seven years and started off as an assistant site manager, he has also previously won the 'Pride in the Job' award.

"The most important thing about my job is being dedicated, taking pride in what you do, the way you build and looking after your customers."

"Willis Place is the first development to offer



From left to right, Willis Place sales adviser Jill Griffiths, site manager Rob Gray and sales adviser Jo Flavell

the brand new Barratt range and build work is going really well.

"The reward that I get from my job is when customers are satisfied. That means that we have done a great job and helped them every step of the way with their dream home."

Willis Place currently offers a range of one- and two-bedroom apartments priced from £104,950 and three- and four-bedroom homes priced from £184,950. For more information, please contact the sales office on 07834543793 open daily between 10am

and 5pm. For more information please call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or log on to www.barratthomes.co.uk/willisplace

● Barratt West Midlands has been confirmed as meriting the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for the second year in a row.

The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.

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- Benefit from lower monthly mortgage repayments
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This three-bedroom semi-detached in Kolverley Grove is on the market with local estate agent Worton Kelly

£147,500 for this semi

AN EXTREMELY well-presented three-bedroom semi-detached home in Kolverley Grove, West Bromwich, is for sale with a price tag of £147,500.

The accommodation briefly comprises of through lounge, fully fitted kitchen/diner, modern bathroom suite, central heating and double glazing, off-road parking, garage and front and rear gardens.

On the ground floor the through

lounge has a feature fireplace, while the kitchen/diner is fitted with a range of wall and base units with work surfaces over, inset stainless steel sink and drainer, integrated appliances including double gas oven, gas hob, cooker hood and fridge freezer.

Garage

On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom comprising of a contemporary P-shaped panel bath with mixer tap and

shower unit over and wash hand basin, with a separate toilet with low-level WC.

Outside the front garden is lawned with borders and shrubs, with a garage with up-and-over doors.

The rear garden has a paved patio area with lawn area beyond, borders and shrubs and gate to the side with access to the front and door to the garage.

For more information, call the agent Worton Kelly on 0121 588 5666.

Andrew Grant



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Contact: Karen Turner on 01384 370232



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Guide Price: £995,000
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A Three Bedroom End Terrace Property With No Upward Chain Sitting Room, Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Rear Garden.
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Contact: Karen Turner on 01384 370232



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A Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment In This Convenient Location. Communal Entrance Hall, Private Entrance Hall, Open Plan Living Area With Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom.
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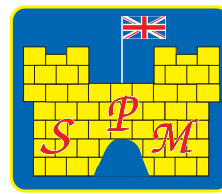
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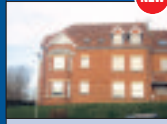
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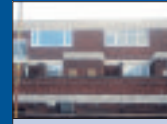
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

The best is yet to come if the weather changes

CURSE this infernal weather. The one thing you think you can rely on is the irritation of British weather, but even that has been a total letdown.

All summer long I've been dreaming of an entirely white winter in order to maximise the smugness of being behind the wheel of this Q5: four-wheel-drive, high driving position, heated seats and even a heated cupholder.

Yet in my part of the world at least, the temperature has barely been cold enough to qualify as autumn.

In fact, it was only a few weeks ago that the Q5 was pressed into service for family holiday duties, one activity that usually guarantees rain.



The Q5 3.0-litre TDI has a 0-60 time of 6.5 seconds

By Matt Joy

Yet the sun beat down on the Q5's grey metallic paintwork and I've still yet to vacuum the sand from the back seats. It made for a brilliant holiday vehicle though, as there was not even the need to use the roof rails.

All the assorted paraphernalia that two boys under five could muster was easily stuffed into the generous boot. Even mum and dad had the luxury of taking more than one change of clothes.

The run down to the south coast was a cinch too. Barely ticking over at 70mph, the 3.0-litre TDI diesel had no problem in achieving 40mpg or more, and yet the inevitable sluggish lorries were despatched with a brief squirt of acceleration.

Luxuries

The Q5 has the attentions of the boy racer brigade. Yet the 0-62mph time of 6.5 seconds leaves most of them trailing in its wake.

I've also become far too accustomed to the Q5's little luxuries.

The standard black leather trim is probably hiding a multitude of sins, especially due to its black finish, while the Bluetooth connectivity and Audi Music Interface (iPhone or iPod connector to you and me) means I can listen to my awful music collection and make calls on the move, before arriving at my destination with a fully-charged phone.

And I'm not ashamed to admit I have used the

climate cupholders on several occasions, even though it feels like an outrageous piece of technology.

I've not even had a chance to try out the Q5's towing pack, though if I have my way, the heavens will truly open and I'll be towing everything in sight out of a ditch.

Happily, the Q5 is already booked in to get a set of winter tyres next week, hopefully before the snow descends, and in fairness to the solid Quattro four-wheel drive system, it can only work with what the tyres can do.

The winter boots are designed to work optimally at temperatures below 7C, which has only really happened in the last week.

The softer compound keeps it flexible when summer tyres start to stiffen up, and at 2am this morning on a damp and cold road, the first signs of the summer rubber starting to struggle were there.

Not that you'd notice the Q5 breaking sweat. Unflappable and totally dependable is the best way to sum up its performance.

Not a thing has gone wrong, malfunctioned or even gone mildly on the blink.

The biggest problem I've discovered is that the giant washer bottle takes about 10 minutes to fill up, such is its vast capacity. But then you only have to do it once in a blue moon.

So like every school child in the land, I'm praying for a series of snow days in the coming weeks to shut down all the key buildings and leave no option but to go out and play.



Audi's Q5 is viewed as a perfect holiday vehicle

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95 Reg	CITROEN C4 1.6 VTR Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, 3-door, FSH, 49k	£3495	£28
05 Reg	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 DESIRE MPV Silver, A/C, CD, Insurance Grp 5	£3495	£23
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56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, alloys, CD, Insurance group 2, 41k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 2, FSH, 47k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE SPORT Silver, Alloys, CD, 3-door, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 48k	£3695	£24
06 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i STYLE Silver, CD, Low Insurance Grp 3, 41k	£2695	£17
04 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME Orange, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
06 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE Mauve, CD, 5-door, Low Ins Grp 4, FSH, 23k	£3695	£24
57 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC CLIMATE Mauve, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 4, FSH, 23k	£3195	£33
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08 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 VTI SPORT Yellow, A/C, Alloys, Cd, 5-door, 10k, FSH	£6195	£40
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55 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 59k	£3695	£24
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05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof	£3195	£21
07 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYNAMIQUE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 3-door, FSH	£3695	£24

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58 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI TECH RUN DYNAMIQUE DIESEL Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH	£5695	£36
57 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH, 41k	£5695	£36
06 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Cabriolet Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof, FSH	£5695	£36
60 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, Sat Nav, FSH, 12k	£3995	£32
61 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM Beige, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Sat Nav, 5k	£10,995	£64
07 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4195	£28
57 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 50k	£4695	£30
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06 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXI COUPE Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door, FSH, 48k	£3195	£33
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXI Turquoise, air con, alloys, CD, FSH, 40k	£3195	£33
54 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Seats, FSH	£3195	£33
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07 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI CLUB MPV Beige, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 7 seater, FSH	£5695	£36
11 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN MPV Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather 7 seater, FSH, 10k	£9995	£58
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06 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 S 55 Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£29

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03 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX Red, P/X to clear, MOT'd Feb 2012	£1695	na
Y Reg	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 SE TDI Green, Diesel, P/X to clear, MOT'd March 2012	£1695	na
52 Reg	NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 Red, P/X to clear, MOT'd April 2012	£1695	na
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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo range: Urban: 31.4 (9.0) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban: 52.3 (5.4) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined - 41.5 (6.8) - 78.4 (3.6). CO₂ emissions 159 - 95g/km.

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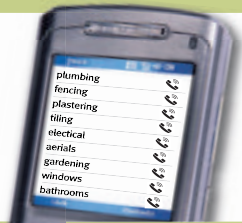
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Despair in the Wolves ranks as Frank Lampard pops up to score the late winner



Stephen Ward celebrates after grabbing the equalising goal for Wolves at Molineux

Sense of injustice gives Mick Blues

Wolves 1 Chelsea 2

by Martin Swain

CHELSEA, it must be conceded, were worthy winners.

But the manner of a defeat which turned the survival pressure dial another click to the right left the Wolves' camp boiling with frustration at the start of 2012.

Manager Mick McCarthy ignored all other debates to focus solely on the manner in which his team conceded Chelsea's last-minute winning goal, joyously volleyed home from point-blank range by Frank Lampard, and coming five minutes after Wolves had pulled level.

Molineux, however, preferred to fix its outrage on Lampard's presence on the pitch to make such a late, decisive intervention on Monday.

The England midfielder was probably the game's best player but conceded he was also the luckiest having escaped with a yellow card when he scythed down Adam Hammill to trigger some feisty half-exchanges.

Edgy

Certainly based on the Milijas Scale of Punishment to which McCarthy referred so entertainingly in his pre-match press conference, Lampard should have been a goner – his studs were up and he was late, catching Hammill at the bottom of his shin. But he's Frank Lampard playing against Wolves and not a low-profile Serb playing against Arsenal.

Their sense of injustice fuelled, Molineux's public roared their disapproval and played a positive role in helping their team create their most threatening moments – albeit from set-pieces – against a Chelsea side perceived to be nervous and edgy amid the turmoil of an unconvincing change of coach and Roman Abramovich's itchy trigger-finger.



Wolves' Roger Johnson swings on the bar in frustration as the final whistle sounds

But when the fury had blown itself out, Chelsea had refused to buckle and appeared to be coasting to victory, a 54th-minute goal from Ramires greeted by a rather contrived and stage-managed celebration with the under-fire Andre Villas-Boas which would not have been out of place in one of the West End's hammy melodramas.

Chelsea forgot to add authority in the scoreline to match the superiority of their football, however, and all those old McCarthy virtues – tenacity, stubbornness, unquenchable spirit – somehow found an equaliser from Stephen Ward which should have been enough to add a satisfying point to the two taken in the previous trips to Arsenal and Bolton.

Instead, Wolves have been unable to recover the lost ground of their previous failings at home and a daunting stretch of fixtures approaches which will further challenge their nerve and resolve. Ignore,

sadly, the comparative irrelevance of the FA Cup's third round. It's the league sequence which has got it all – derbies (against Villa and Albion), clashes against the elite (Spurs, Liverpool) as well as the return contest with QPR, who are sinking into similar peril.

McCarthy has fortified his ranks with a couple of signings already and surely more will follow but, judging by the speed at which he was thrust into the starting line-up, it is clear he has great belief in another 'borrow' from one of the big boys, Arsenal's Emmanuel Frimpong following a path previously trodden by Jamie O'Hara and Darron Gibson.

Frimpong's daunting opening fixture provided glimpses of the composure in possession which is the trademark of his parent club and is so desperately needed by a team which – especially in this sort of company – still finds it extremely hard work to control possession. There was doubtless much disap-

pointment that the manager recognised this shortfall and opted to approach this challenge with a nod to Chelsea's superior qualities.

Steven Fletcher and Matt Jarvis, his team's most effective forwards and most over-worked, were held back on the bench as McCarthy injected his starting XI with the fresh energy required to hustle and hassle Chelsea out of their stride.

That his strategy was sabotaged by the late collapse of his right flank which enabled Fernando Torres – and if this is Torres in a rut, Lord help defenders when he is in form – to release Ashley Cole for the cross Lampard met with such decisive conviction.

For once Richard Stearman had been unable to prevent the breach having opened the game with two decisive interceptions, the second a wonderful covering tackle on Lampard as he was about to score.

Rattled

But Wolves responded to the hostility Molineux aimed at referee Peter Walton for his subsequent 'let off' for the England player and might have easily taken the lead themselves, first with a Roger Johnson header which rattled the bottom of the post and then a Ward header which the full-back glanced wide.

But Ramires' goal was well-taken and a punishing blow to the home cause, a Juan Mata corner landing at his feet before he had the presence of mind to elude Ward and pop a rising, diagonal finish into Wayne Hennessey's top right-hand corner.

Wolves' efforts to retrieve the game, even with Jarvis and Fletcher introduced, were laboured until more set-piece pressure finished with Hammill clipping a delightful cross to the back post where Fletcher caught Jose Bosingwa off guard to set up Ward for a left-foot finish.

It should have been enough to cap a decent festive programme with a decent festive point. That it ended in such despair for the home side spoke volumes for the battle now confronting McCarthy's team.

Heading into new year with valuable point

Bolton 1 Wolves 1

OUT with the old, in with the new. The phrase used to usher in the new year could well be applied to Wolves as they signed off 2011.

In this game, a truly awful first-half showing was replaced by a much brighter, more incisive performance after the break which saw Wolves on top. At half-time on New Year's Eve matters must have weighed heavily on Wolves fans' minds because their team was hopeless. Boss Mick McCarthy said it was the worst they have played.

McCarthy had started George Elokobi at left-back for only the third time in the league this season and moved Stephen Ward into central midfield.

'Middle men' Dave Edwards and Adlene Guedioura were on the bench, the former not expected to last 90 minutes after a recent groin injury and illness.

With Ward, McCarthy knows what he's going to get, and it would be harsh to blame those two changes alone for the collective no-show from the team for the first half. Thankfully, Bolton's confidence and conviction were as brittle as the visitors' performance, and there was always the feeling that McCarthy's side could find their way back into the game.

Purpose

Steven Fletcher's diving header to cancel out Sam Ricketts' superb curling opener came just four minutes after the restart and gave them plenty of time for the revival to get into full swing. The introduction of Edwards brought a much-needed positive feel to Wolves' midfield, and his running and willingness to burst forward gave them fresh purpose.

And this was underpinned by a real captain's performance by Roger Johnson.

Keeper Wayne Hennessey was unable to get near Wolves team-mate Ricketts' 22nd-minute curler on the left-back's return from 10 months out but twice kept Wolves in the game, first to deny Gretar Steinsson's header and then his crowning moment, a superb, full-stretch one-handed reflex stop to foil an awkward, deflected shot from Fabrice Muamba that bounced off the greasy surface.

Wolves were the dominant force after the break and ended the game with more clear-cut chances, to leave them slightly more aggrieved at having to settle for a point

Hennessey leads case for defence

Arsenal 1 Wolves 1

THAT'S more like it. This was not just Wolves' finest defensive display of 2011-12, it was arguably their best ever defensive performance under Mick McCarthy.

All season long, his side have been held back by their own mistakes.

But at the Emirates Stadium, where Arsenal had dropped just five points all season, they ended their miserable run of six straight losses on the road and avoid defeat to the Gunners for the first time in 13 meetings going back to 1982.

This point on December 27 was made possible by a superb goalkeeper, Wayne Hennessey, and his defence.

On his 150th Wolves appearance, the Wales international produced save after save to repel the home side in a man of the match display, including four alone from Robin van Persie.

It was never easy for Wolves and their task was made harder in having to survive with 10 men for the last 15 minutes plus time added on following a poor decision from referee Stuart Attwell to send off Nenad Milijas for his tackle on Mikel Arteta.

Wolves enjoyed a slice of good fortune after Attwell missed a handball when Laurent Koscielny's cross hit Christophe Berra just before the hour.

The first half had ended all-square after Steven Fletcher got his head to Stephen Hunt's blocked shot seven minutes before the break to cancel out Gervinho's eighth-minute opener.

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Higgins is facing selection dilemma

DUDLEY KINGSWIN FORD Rugby Club player-coach Jon Higgins has warned nobody's place is assured for Saturday's visit of Hinckley - including his own.

Higgins and fellow boss Pete Knight are close to fitness ahead of the National Three Midlands clash after a pulled thigh muscle and broken hand respectively.

But the management duo checked their numbers on Tuesday night and admitted they cannot use all of the firepower at their disposal come the weekend.

Higgins said: "Selection for this weekend is going to be very difficult, there will be a good 25 players all in the reckoning to play and we can only use 20."

"It's a nice problem to have and, unfortunately, some people are going to be disappointed."

DK have now played 14 games and all of the teams in the division.

Rugby Lions are 12 points clear at the top while second-placed DK chase a play-off place. But Higgins believes his side are no longer a surprise package.

He added: "People know what to expect and they will have ways of stopping us doing what we do well. Our next challenge is to overcome that."

DK have been drawn at home to Camp Hill in the North Midlands Colts Cup first round.

Tividale bag away victory

TIVIDALE recovered from the loss of an early goal to run out 3-1 winners in their Midland Alliance clash at Heath Hayes on Monday.

A fine break down the right by Ben Haseley set up Dave Waple to sweep home after three minutes.

Haseley then had a couple of chances himself but each time was thwarted by blocks from keeper Tim Beech.

Tividale had the better of the closing stages of the first half and Matt Jukes took advantage of some poor defending to equalise.

On 50 minutes the visitors took the lead when the livewire Chris Russell bundled the ball home despite a valiant effort from Adam Jenkins to deny him.

Again poor defending cost the home side when a mix-up between Adam Jenkins and Tom Baggot was punished with a clinical finish from Adam Hill.

Rowe strike rescues a point for Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE could only share the spoils in a feisty Evo-stik Southern Premier encounter with Barwell despite the Leicestershire side having defender Peter Saunders sent off 20 minutes from time.

For the third consecutive home match Stourbridge leaked a goal within two minutes of the second half beginning, but top scorer Ryan Rowe found the equaliser.

The opening period was a nip and tuck affair with neither side able to gain the ascendancy. Barwell went close after 14 minutes when Liam Daly's header from a Jai Stanley free-kick drifted wide. Some

Stourbridge 1 Barwell 1

good build-up play from the hosts might have brought a goal on 33 minutes. Ben Billingham threaded the ball through for Paul McConne to centre low from the right but Drew Canavan failed to connect cleanly with his shot.

Canavan very nearly put Stourbridge ahead eight minutes later, his curling free-kick from 20 yards beating keeper Liam Castle only to rattle the crossbar.

Barwell quickly replied with a low first-time shot from Guy Sanders which rolled

narrowly wide of Lewis Solly's left-hand post; the keeper then beat away a shot and saw Jamie Towers strike the rebound past the far post.

Stourbridge fell behind when Billingham's weak clearing header from a Barwell corner dropped invitingly for Sanders to smash a volley past Solly.

The contest grew increasingly niggly but a well-worked goal saw Stourbridge draw level in the 68th minute. Aaron Griffiths clipped the ball forward to Rowe who chested it to sub Sean Evans on the left.

Rowe turned and burst into the box to

volley home Evans' pinpoint cross from close range. Two minutes later Saunders were reduced to 10 men after Saunders lashed out at Griffiths.

Yet it was the visitors who went closest to a winner when Daly challenging for a header from another Barwell corner and the ball fell to Jamie Towers who hooked his shot over the bar.

Stourbridge threatened late on with Drake finding substitute John Griffin.

He cut in from the right flank but his low shot lacked the power to trouble Castle unduly.

Legend Sobers is guest for club

CRICKET legend Sir Garfield Sobers will be the special guest at a sporting lunch in the Midlands later this year.

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the sport's greatest all-rounder is being organised by Himley Cricket Club.

The event is being held on June 22 at The Kingfisher Hotel, Kidderminster Road, Wall Heath at 12.30pm for a 1pm start.

Sobers is widely regarded as one of cricket's greatest ever all-rounders, having excelled at all the essential skills of batting, bowling and fielding.

In 1968 he became the first batsman ever to hit six sixes in a single over in first-class cricket while playing for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan.

During his Test career he played 93 times for the West Indies and averaged more than 57.

He moved to the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire League in 1964 to play for Norton Cricket Club, who duly won the league title.

The 75-year-old, who made his Test debut against England in 1954, was knighted in 1975 for his services to cricket.

Tickets are priced at £40 and include a three-course lunch and a comedian.

Tables of 10 are priced at £350 if booked before March 31. To book a place contact Gordon Lewis on 07814619447 or Andrew Biggs on 07861800510.

Yeltz fall to narrow loss

HALESOWEN suffered a second 1-0 defeat within three days at Cinderford.

Each side ended the Evo-Stik Southern Division One South & West game with 10 men. Cinderford's Dan Harrison got his marching orders for a second booking after 68 minutes.

The Yeltz, trailing to a 58th-minute Andy Lewis goal, were unable to take advantage and then had Anthony Bruce dismissed in the 81st minute for his second bookable offence in fouling Nick Hancock.

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EXTRA COVER DRIVES ON FORMER SKIPPER

KARL HENRY insists he is happy at Molineux and has welcomed the competition for his Wolves place.

The 29-year-old midfielder was understandably upset at being replaced as captain this season by Roger Johnson and now seen the arrival of two players who play in his position in Emmanuel Frimpong and Eggert Jonsson.

Henry has again been linked with QPR after Rangers were keen on him last summer. But the former Stoke City man, the club's second longest serving player behind Jody Craddock, says he is happy to see the extra cover. The Wolverhampton-born player is just two games short of 200 League appearances for Mick McCarthy's side.

He said: "It's always been the way and until they came in, maybe we had five or six attacking midfielders and myself as a defensive midfielder."

"In the past we've had other players such as Michael Mancienne, and maybe we've not really replaced them."

"We all want competition for places deep down because we know it's good for the club and keeps everyone on their toes and also for injuries."

"I've got to the stage where I'm happy here, I want to stay in this league and I'll continue to what I do to the best of my ability."

"Sometimes I'll have a stinker but hopefully more often than not, I'll do OK."

Asked about the QPR link, Henry said: "That's the first I've heard of that."

"The last time I was linked with QPR was before I signed here."

"I had a medical there and agreed a contract with them and nearly signed for them, but I came to Wolves. I'm still very happy here."

Henry believes Frimpong, who has signed on loan from Arsenal for the rest of the season, can have a similar impact to the loan signing of Jamie O'Hara a year ago after playing for an hour in Monday's 2-1 defeat to

By Tim Nash

Chelsea. "Everyone has their own agenda and maybe he wants to put in a good six months and get back to Arsenal," he said.

"Whatever it is, it's going to be a positive for us if he plays well."

"I thought he looked good. He put his foot in, he's a strong lad, he looked good on the ball and he did well."

"He's trained only once with the lads who didn't play a couple of days ago, but he'll be a good addition to the squad."

Savage

Meanwhile, Adam Hammill hit out at the inconsistency of referee Peter Walton after Wolves suffered another costly blow.

Chelsea's Frank Lampard scored the 88th-minute winner in his side's 2-1 success after only receiving a yellow card for a savage tackle on Hammill earlier in the game.

Ashley Cole somehow escaped a caution despite kicking Kevin Doyle twice and upending Hammill and debutant Frimpong.

Hammill and Doyle were booked for retaliating.

It left Wolves nursing a sense of injustice just a week after Nenad Milijas'

controversial sending off at Arsenal and three-match ban for a far less serious offence than Lampard's.

"I don't even think Ned's one was a foul," said Hammill. "But what you want is consistency."

"Lampard got booked, and then straight afterwards, I got booked for closing Ashley Cole down and I never touched him."

Lampard admitted he could have seen red for his tackle, which sparked a rush of five bookings in eight minutes as Walton struggled to keep control.

"My heart was in my mouth over that challenge. I have to admit that," said Lampard. "There was no malice, but I was late and I might have been a bit lucky to stay on the pitch."

"I said straight away to Hammill I was very sorry. I was trying to get my foot in and I was maybe lucky."

"There were a few things that could have gone either way. It was a full-blooded game and I just apologised to the player because I was a bit late."

Wolves boss McCarthy said: "If it was a booking or a sending off then just deal with it. If it's deserved do it and if it's not, then don't."



Wolves new-boy Emmanuel Frimpong in action during the 2-1 defeat to Chelsea

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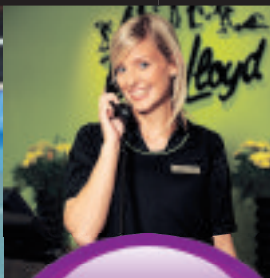
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